MAC FORMAT ISSUE 200 October 2008

Special 200th birthday issue! ● 200 unmissable Mac tips ● Desktop speakers Group Test ● Run Windows on a Mac ● Fine-tune RAW images

Printed in the UK

Special 200th issue!

Mac FORMAT

ISSUE 200 October 2008

DISCOVER HOW TO...

- Save time in Finder and OS X
- Get more from the iLife apps
- Solve common Mac problems

AND MUCH MORE!

200 unmissable Mac tips

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE

Everything an Apple owner needs

Be more organised!

How to find your files in a flash!

Fine-tune RAW files

Improve your skills in Photoshop

New reviews this issue

- QuarkXPress 8 • Mellel 2.5
- Slingbox PRO • EOS 1000D
- New iPhone apps & more!

REVIEWED

Speakers on test

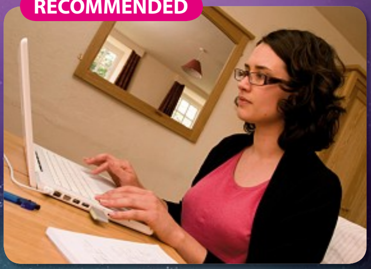
Six desktop sound systems

REVEALED

Windows on Mac

Free virtualisation solution!

RECOMMENDED



20 Mac classics!

Top 20 must-have programs

DISC INSIDE!

- Plan projects with ConceptDraw MINDMAP 5
- QuarkXPress 8 and more!

FULL CONTENTS P128

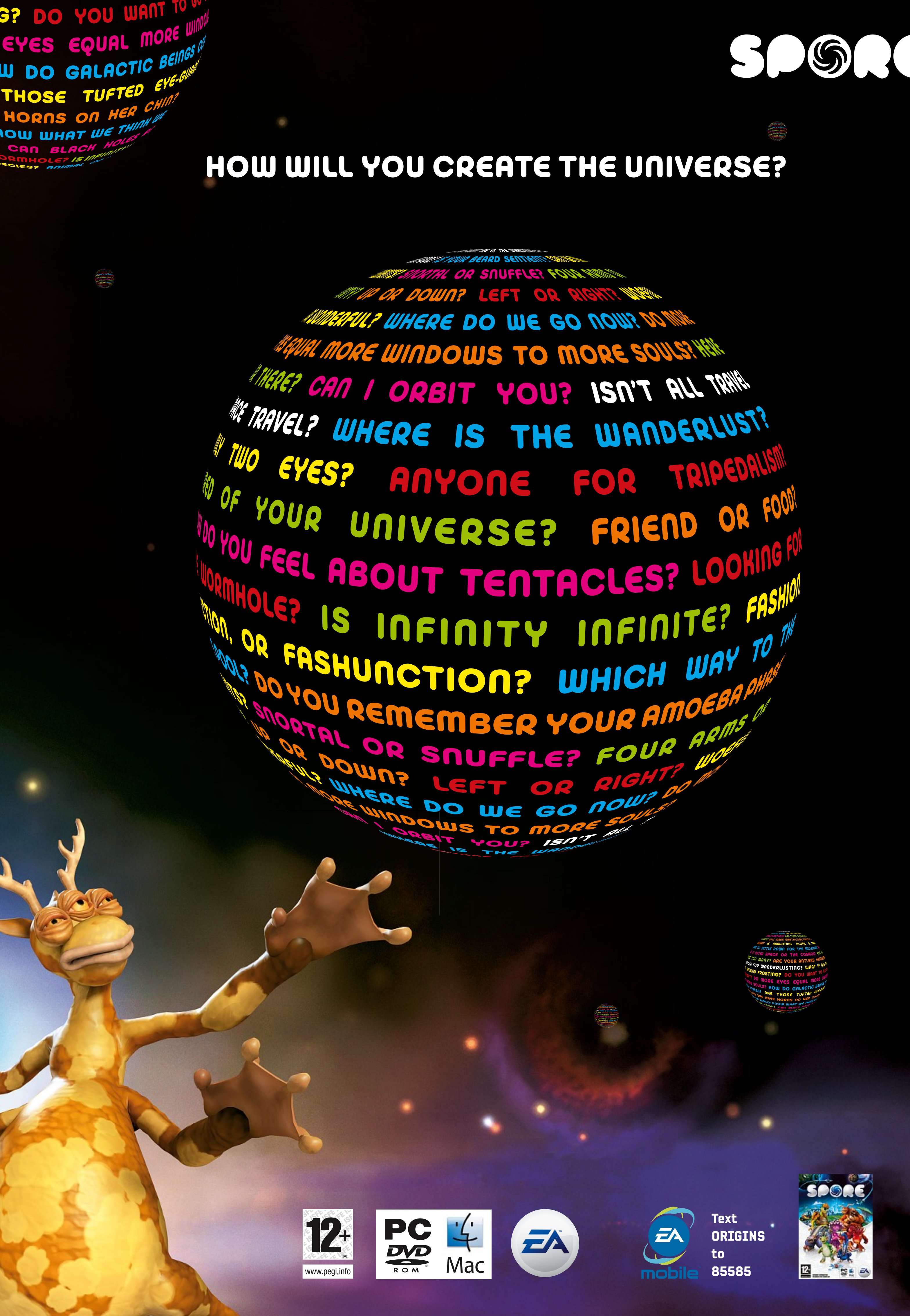
techradar.com

Future
MEDIA WITH PASSION

OCTOBER 2008 £5.99 £6 OUTSIDE UK & ROI

10

9 771353 851021


SPORE
HOW WILL YOU CREATE THE UNIVERSE?
WHERE DO WE GO NOW?
MORE WINDOWS TO MORE SOULS?
CAN I ORBIT YOU? ISN'T ALL TRAVEL
TRAVEL? WHERE IS THE WANDERLUST?
TWO EYES? ANYONE FOR TRIPEDALISM?
OF YOUR UNIVERSE? FRIEND OR FOOD?
DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TENTACLES? LOOKING FOR
WORMHOLE? IS INFINITY INFINITE? FASHION,
OR FASHUNCTION? WHICH WAY TO THE
DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR AMOEBA PHASE
SNORTAL OR SNUFFLE? FOUR ARMS OR
OR DOWN? LEFT OR RIGHT?
12+
www.pegi.info
PC DVD ROM
Mac
EA
EA mobile
Text ORIGINS to 85585

© 2008 Electronic Arts Inc. EA, the EA logo and SPORE are trademarks or registered trademarks of Electronic Arts Inc. in the U.S. and/or other countries. All Rights Reserved. Mac and the Mac logo are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Welcome

Not very often does a magazine Editor get to welcome you to the 200th issue of their magazine, or announce a stunning 27% year-on-year sales increase, so I'm going to savour this moment, because I'm about to do both. Yes, it's issue 200 and *MacFormat*'s sales are going through the roof! I can't tell you how delighted this makes the whole team here at *MacFormat* feel, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our readers for keeping us in our no.1 slot as the UK's best-selling Mac magazine. Thank you!

> "Yes, it's issue 200 and MacFormat's sales are going through the roof!"

To prepare for our 200th issue, we raided the vault here at Future Towers and unearthed the first few copies of *MacFormat* ever produced. While so much has changed in the Mac industry since 1993, we've also strangely come full circle. When *MacFormat* launched, Apple was pushing into the home market for the first time. We all know what happened… it failed and Microsoft Windows claimed the prize. But now, in 2008, it's Apple that is on the rise with home users, and PC-owners are switching over in their droves because of the platform's many viruses and buggy programs.

It seems to me that a new Mac running OS X is now the natural choice for the home computer user. Macs are easier to use, nicer to look at and don't come with the plethora of problems that plague PC owners. But what do you think? Drop me an email to let me know your thoughts. Also, if you've been reading *MacFormat* from the early days, I'd love to know what you think of the magazine now.

Enjoy the special 200 Mac tips we've prepared for our anniversary, and I'll see you again on 15 October for more news, reviews and tips from the world of Mac.

email: gbarlow@futurenet.co.uk

Mac FORMAT
Special 200th issue!
DISCOVER HOW TO…
200 unmissable Mac tips
83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE
Be more organised!
Fine-tune RAW files
New reviews this issue
Speakers on test
Windows on Mac
20 Mac classics!
techradar.com

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to *MacFormat* today: save 23% and get a free image editor!

Turn to p60 now!

All your Apple needs

Contents

NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!
Subscribe today see p60

Mac 2000 – what will Apple come up with next?
Macformat
New
mac FORMAT
MACFORMAT
BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING MACINTOSH MAGAZINE
Think different.
Pssst! Fancy some free software?

20

Happy Birthday, MacFormat

We celebrate 200 great issues!

200
unmissable
Mac tips

26

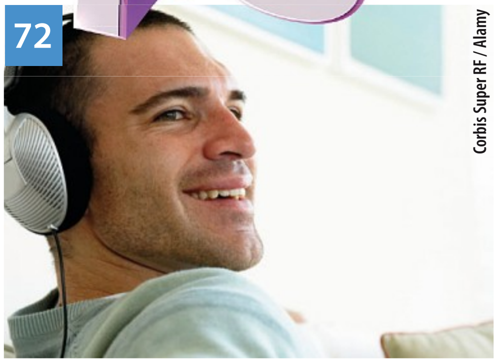
In this issue...

Start up 6
Win: Western Digital hard drives 12
Me and my Mac 14
I use my Mac for… 16
Letters 18
Happy birthday, MacFormat 20
200 unmissable Mac tips **26, 62, 68**
How to… 37
Subscribe to MacFormat 60, 66
All you need… 72
Q&A 74
Reviews 81
Group Test: Mac speakers 104
Buyers' Guide 110
Mac User Groups 120
Games 124
Disc pages 128

104

Desktop speakers

We round up six speaker sets for your Mac



72

Corbis Super RF / Alamy

Enjoy your music

Turn your Mac into a music machine

ISSUE 200 October 2008

On your DVD!

Three full apps, QuarkXPress trial, new demos, shareware and more! See page 128

MacFormat Disc
Issue 200 | October 2008
Future
DVD
3 FULL PROGRAMS
ConceptDraw MINDMAP 5
Plan your next project perfectly
AppDelete 1.1
Cleanly delete programs from your Mac
PLUS:
Latest game demos, TextSpeech Pro Basic 1.5, video training, and more!

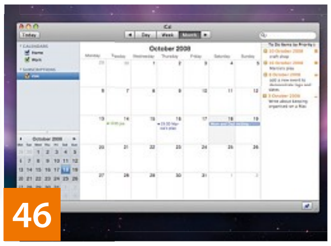
How to… 37-59

WIN! WESTERN DIGITAL MYBOOK DRIVES WORTH £870 SEE P12

38 Photoshop tips

Get better results with RAW images

42 Add and edit titles in iMovie



46 Get organised with your Mac

Plus...

Organise your photos 40
Keep your machine lean 44
Set up multiple displays 51
Run Windows in a window! 56
Listen to Wikipedia articles 58

Q&A 74-79

All your Mac-related queries answered by our experts

76 Security Update bugs fixed
79 Vertical lines on an iMac screen

And much more!

MAC USER GROUPS

Turn to page 120 for our listing

Reviews 81-109

The best independent reviews

82 Can Quark steal back the DTP crown with XPress 8?

93 Sling Media Slingbox PRO

91 Pro-Ject Debut III

Reviewed this issue…

SOFTWARE

QuarkXPress 8 82
Vara Software ScreenFlow 1.2 84
Lexcycle Stanza 1.0 beta 84
Redlex Mellel 2.5 85
Smith Micro Internet Cleanup 5.0 86
onOne Software Plug-In Suite 4 87
DJ 1800 3.1 88
Acertant TuneRanger 88

HARDWARE

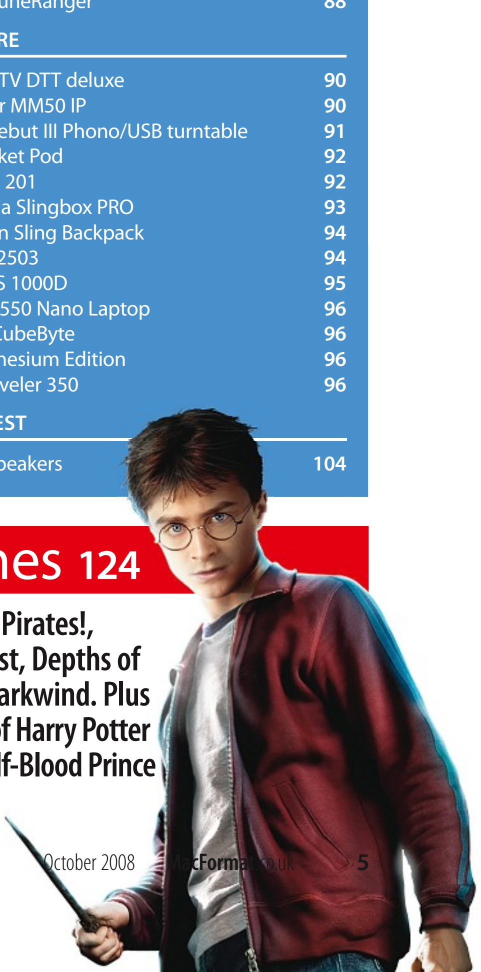
Elgato EyeTV DTT deluxe 90
Sennheiser MM50 IP 90
Pro-Ject Debut III Phono/USB turntable 91
Line 6 Pocket Pod 92
Marantz IS 201 92
Sling Media Slingbox PRO 93
Branthaven Sling Backpack 94
Imono HI-2503 94
Canon EOS 1000D 95
Logitech v550 Nano Laptop 96
Autosafe CubeByte 96
Solio Magnesium Edition 96
Genius Traveler 350 96

GROUP TEST

Desktop speakers 104

Games 124

Sid Meier's Pirates!, Puzzle Quest, Depths of Peril and Darkwind. Plus a preview of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince



Start up

With fingers firmly on the Mac's pulse,
MacFormat brings you all the best Apple chat

App Store is a huge success

Developers are thrilled at the success of the newly-opened App Store

App Store sales are off to a terrific start, with well in excess of 60 million applications downloaded so far – and developers are happy.

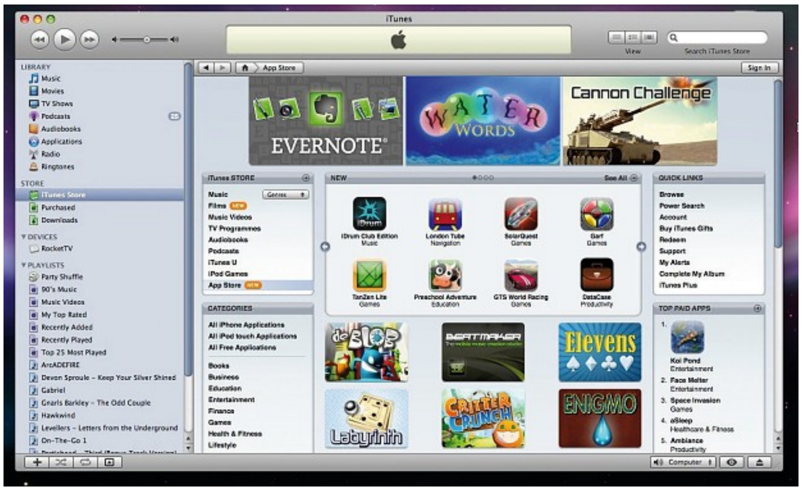
"It's been amazing," explained Eliza Block, creator of *2 Across* and *2 Across LE* crossword puzzle apps. "I've sold thousands of copies of the paid version, and the 'light' version, which has only been available for a week, has been downloaded about 25,000 times.

"I got into it as a hobby and a way to avoid my dissertation," Block explained. "I wrote it because I wanted to solve crosswords on my iPhone, I used it happily on my own for a few months before the App Store opened – people kept asking where I got it, so I thought there might be a market and submitted it to the App Store."

Big money-maker

It's good Block went for it – at one point application sales generated the developer nearly $2,000 per day, though the crossword-loving student concedes Apple's decision to feature it on the store's front page had a "huge impact" on sales.

MooCowMusic's *Band* and *Pianist* have been popular since the App Store's inception. Developer, Mark Terry, explains: "Both *Band* and *Pianist* were updates of apps that had previously been available for free to the jailbreak community." As expected, his move to charge for the software caused some friction, but following Terry's WWDC 2008 appearance, the App Store delivered the developer a life-changing opportunity. "Being asked to



Over three million iPhone 3G sales have driven huge interest in the App Store, with developers making huge profits on their apps.

> "It's a great way to keep software free and help brands reach audiences with cool software that saves user's cash"

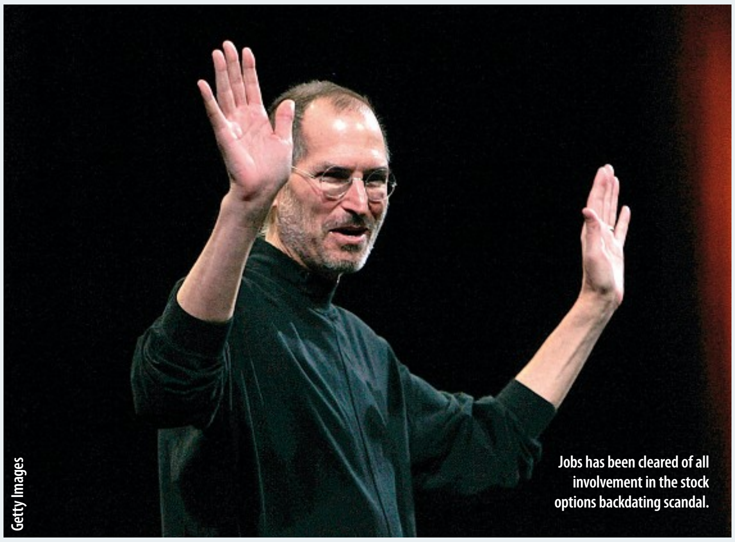
SNIPPETS

New iTunes rival

Universal Music has launched its own cross-platform music download service, LostTunes, which offers rare tracks at near lossless quality.

A clear stab at *iTunes*, the store is dedicated to "exclusives, rarities and overlooked classics," Universal said. LostTunes launched with 134 albums. Downloads are sold as high-quality 320kpbs MP3s, tracks cost 99p each, or £7.99 for most albums. www.losttunes.com

STOCKS SCANDAL | Jobs is safe from harm



Getty Images

Jobs has been cleared of all involvement in the stock options backdating scandal.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs appears exonerated from involvement with Apple's stock options backdating scandal, as the last outstanding investigation into the matter by the US authorities has reached an end.

Jobs's tenure as Apple CEO seems safe as the US Securities and Exchange Commission has reached a $2.2 million settlement with Apple's former general counsel, Nancy Heinen, who was accused of helping to backdate options granted to senior Apple executives. Under the deal, Heinen must pay the fine, cannot serve as a company officer and cannot practise law for some years, but has not been required to admit guilt. Similar charges were made against former Apple CFO, Fred Anderson, who coughed up $3.5 million in penalties for the affair, which saw Apple under-report the cost of options by a cool $40 million. Company boss Steve Jobs has been cleared of involvement both by the SEC and an independent investigation.

stand onstage at WWDC 2008 alongside SEGA, eBay and Steve Jobs gave me some indication that *Band* would be well received. So I took a gamble in quitting my day job to concentrate on developing for the iPhone.”

Terry also said that App Store sales so far, “will allow me to continue to make great applications in the future – watch this space.”

Distribution channel

UK developer iDev's Cool Gorilla imprint, already offers six Lastminute.com-sponsored phrasebook apps for the iPhone. MD, Roy Forsdick explained: “The App Store gives us a clear distribution channel”. Because the company aims to create free apps, it works with partners, such as Lastminute.com, and needs a feedback loop for them. Calling the App Store a “fantastic” distribution channel, he hinted that download figures across the company's six apps had “almost reached seven figures”.

He added: “For us it's a fantastic way to keep software free and help brands reach audiences with cool software that saves user's cash.”

And Nico Becherer, developer of popular app, *FaceMelter*, explained: “I remember the night before it was released I said to my wife, ‘Let's see how it does, maybe some people like it and I'll get back the cost of getting into the developer program.’ Well, let's say it did a lot better than that.” The app was among the top downloads in Italy, the UK, Switzerland and the US. “Feedback has been fantastic,” he said.

Other stats: SEGA's *Super Monkeyball*, sold 300,000 copies in 20 days, while popular free apps *Facebook* and *Tap Tap Revolution* surpassed one million downloads each.

With all this activity, Apple raised an average $1 million per day in sales during the first month, suggesting it could make at least $360 million a year from such sales – 70% of which is going to developers, whose share of the first month revenues was about $21 million, of which the top 10 developers earned $9 million.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs told the *Wall Street Journal*: “This thing's going to crest a half a billion, soon. Who knows, maybe it will be a $1 billion marketplace at some point in time.”

Jobs also confirmed the iPhone software hosts a secret back door which Apple can use to deactivate rogue apps. “Hopefully we never have to pull that lever, but we would be irresponsible not to have a lever like that to pull,” he said. ●

Apple in numbers

3.04 million

The number of Macs RBC analysts expect to sell in Sept quarter.

DIALOGUE BOX

What they're saying about Apple

STEVE JOBS www.apple.com

“It was a mistake to launch MobileMe at the same time as iPhone 3G, *iPhone 2.0* software and the App Store. We all had more than enough to do, and MobileMe could have been delayed without consequence.”

Apple boss responds to lengthy problems with MobileMe launch.

STEVE JOBS www.apple.com

“We are working on some bugs which affect around 2% of the iPhones shipped, and hope to have a software update soon.”

Apple Chief Executive Officer responds to recent complaints from some new iPhone 3G owners about connectivity problems.

STEPHEN FRY http://tinyurl.com/6rd8g4

“Whatever one's view of Apple as a manufacturer of digital equipment, it remains a matter of ineluctable fact that the introduction of the iPhone just over a year ago changed the smartphone market for ever”.

Broadcaster and Apple fan speaks highly of the iPhone.

SEAN SWEENEY http://tinyurl.com/5pyrbh

“Since the Apple SoHo store moved in six years ago, it has become the worst neighbor in SoHo. No bar, nightclub or construction site comes close to ruining continually our quality-of-life like Apple SoHo has.”

American NIMBY types around SoHo Apple Store get to moaning.

TOM ALEXANDER www.orange.co.uk

“It was the best trading weekend of the year so far. People were excited by the product, came out to shop and found other great deals on the high street. Everyone has benefited from the iPhone.”

Orange's Chief Executive praises the iPhone.

JANE BRADBURN www.hp.com

“From the 30th of June, we have no longer been able to ship a PC with a XP licence. What we have been able to do is ship PCs with a Vista Business licence but XP pre-loaded. That's still the majority of business computers we are selling today.”

HP executive tells us how Vista sales figures are ‘tweaked’.

Let us know if you've heard any good Apple quotes this month. Email them to macformat@futurenet.co.uk

HOT

Apple plans 'all-you-can-eat' *iTunes* subscription service.
MF verdict: We've anticipated this for some time. It makes sense as the company now has a wireless ecosystem in its iPhone and iPod touch.

New MacBooks and MacBook Pros loom
MF verdict: A certainty – particularly as the company told its resellers in July to expect limited supplies of these laptops.

RUMOUR CONTROL

Our verdict on the month's Mac rumours

Apple plans sophisticated video headset
MF verdict: We'd love this to be true – a sophisticated video headset for your iPhone, but we sense a speculation too far here.

Apple plots iPhone nano for 2008
MF verdict: We think Apple will eventually ship a smaller iPhone model, but we're not at all convinced we'll see it appear this year.

NOT

APPLE ON TV

Spotted…

Moonlight
If you watch US show, *Moonlight* on UK TV channel, Living, you may have seen Alex O'Loughlin (Mick) pull out a first-gen iPhone during 'What's Left Behind', which fans know tells us a little more about the mysterious private investigator. Spotted by Michael Sparten, Gloucester

Spotted an Apple product on TV? Email the details to macformat@futurenet.co.uk with Telly as the subject.

MOBILEME

Apple acts to repair MobileMe

Steve Jobs admits MobileMe launch was not a great moment

Apple has shaken up its MobileMe management teams and made further moves to placate aggrieved MobileMe users in compensation for the weeks of problems subscribers experienced when the service launched.

Calling the launch "not up to Apple's standards," company CEO Steve Jobs announced the appointment of executive Eddy Cue, Apple's Vice President of iTunes, as the new MobileMe boss. Cue becomes Apple's Vice President, Internet Services, and will report directly to Jobs.

Apple also offered a free 90-day extension to the duration of subscriber's accounts.

While MobileMe's teething problems seem repaired at time of writing, Cue appears the man to lead the future of the service.

"Eddy's real specialty is to be able to take what Steve asks for, implement it, hit the target dates, make it work, and keep the damn thing a secret until Steve (Jobs) announces it," said former Apple employee, Chuq von Rospach, speaking to the *Guardian*, adding, "he's no easier to work with than Steve is". ●

Tuesday
9
mobile me
Push email, push calendar, and push contacts.
For your iPhone, iPod touch, Mac, PC, and the web.

PRIVACY ATTACK

nano recalled

Apple in trouble over the iPod nano fault in Japan

August, they say, is the cruelest month – for Apple the adage proved true as it was forced to recall its first-generation iPod nano in Japan, and also began voluntarily replacement of its MagSafe power adaptors.

The recall was Apple's speedy reaction when Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry revealed that overheating iPod nanos may have caused as many as 17 incidents across the country, including three fires in Tokyo and Kanagawa.

Following investigation, Apple pinned the problem down to faulty batteries from one (unnamed) supplier, and offered to replace them at no charge for Japanese owners who asked for this.

Apple explained the problem to be "extremely rare", characterising it as affecting under 0.001% of first-generation iPod nanos, themselves introduced in September 2005. "There have been no reports of serious injuries or property damage, and no reports of incidents for any other iPod nano model," the company said.

Sadly, it isn't the first time this particular iPod model has attracted controversy: Apple released a second-gen iPod nano a year after the initial version, as global reports claimed the casing was easily scratched and screens cracked. "This is a real but minor issue involving a vendor quality problem in a small number of units," Apple's Phil Schiller said at the time, claiming it affected one tenth of 1% of the product.

Apple in August also began offering free replacement MagSafe power adaptors to Mac users with some frayed adaptors. "You may notice a separation of the white insulation on the magnetic end of the MagSafe adaptor. Under continued use, the cable may discolor and the rubber molding may become deformed," Apple said.

Any customers who are experiencing such problems should contact Apple directly in order to find out if the company can replace their cable free of charge. ●

iPod
Music
Photos
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Backlight
Now Playing
9 of 12
The Journey
Fatboy Slim
Palookaville
3:37
-0:59
MENU
MENU

SNIPPETS

Tate Liverpool's
Tate Liverpool last month offered visitors a free multimedia tour of the Gustav Klimt exhibition. The tour was developed by Tate Media and is the first in the UK designed specifically for the iPod touch and iPhone. It's an ongoing initiative; there will be another such tour produced to accompany the Turner Prize 2008 exhibition at Tate Britain this autumn.

16:04
GUSTAV KLIMT

Digital delivery
Virtual Programming's Deliver2Mac digital store (www.deliver2mac.com) offers a whole host of commercial Mac games and other apps for download. Top games titles include *X2: The Threat* and *KnightShift*. The innovative delivery method works just as you'd imagine. Go to the store, buy a program and you can start playing the game immediately.

Scott Camazine / Alamy

PRIVACY ATTACK

Could this be a law too far?

Travellers face iPod, iPhone, laptop search and seizures

New Homeland Security laws are being implemented in the US which mean visitors to the country can have their iPods, iPhones, Macs and other electronic devices searched and seized.

Introduced as policy by the US Department of Homeland Security, the rules mean US Customs and Border Protection agents can take your devices, inspect the data they contain and translate and share documents with other US government agencies. Agents can also keep devices without offering any cause, and searches can be conducted without a traveller causing any suspicion – and agents don't need to tell travellers why they have been selected for a search.

The Department of Homeland Security justified the move saying the new powers were essential for it in its work policing and "detecting information concerning terrorism, narcotics smuggling... contraband including child pornography, and... other import or export control laws."

However, it also emerged that the UK and other countries are secretly discussing the imposition of similar border controls, this time under an international deal called the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), which the US and Japan are pushing to be finalised by the end of the year. Under this deal, international travellers may also face having their laptops, mobiles, USB sticks and other devices scanned and copied at will by customs officials.

Participants have kept details of the agreement secret but details have emerged in consultation papers published by an Australian copyright trade body, the Australian Digital Alliance. Civil liberties campaigners and business travellers are concerned that the new laws could threaten individual privacy and critical business secrets and data. ●

Apple in numbers

8

Number of purchases of the $8,000 *I Am Rich* iPhone app.

Good grammar? It's a touchy subject

This issue, Chris is infuriated by lazy mistakes and 'witty' phrases

CHRIS'S COLUMN

Every time someone calls it an iTouch rather than an iPod touch, a small part of my soul dies. Every time someone writes iPod Nano rather than iPod nano, a small part of my soul dies. Every time someone refers to a MAC rather than a Mac, a small part of my soul dies. Every time an over-zealous Mac enthusiast uses any of a number of bitingly witty and original phrases – Micro$oft, Microshaft, Windoze – without a glimmer of irony and with every appearance of believing this to be comedy Ben Elton would be proud of, a small part of my soul dies.

All of which is further evidence that I should seek the advice of a professional. I'm not saying what he'd be professional at, exactly – quite how Michael Phelps or a member of the Guild of Puppeteers would help is, at least at this stage, unclear – but evidently I'm not a well man. There are, I have to agree, much more important things to get wound up about.

> "In cases such as iTouch and MAC, there's no reason other than laziness and good old-fashioned ignorance to get things wrong"

Really, I suppose, this is all about a bigger-picture concern about getting things right. I know that, despite our best efforts, typos and grammatical gaffes sometimes make it through onto *MacFormat*'s pages, and I wouldn't claim that my English is perfect. That is the point: nobody's English ever can be. Nobody can speak or write language perfectly because by its very nature it's a fluid thing defined solely by group consent; there is no empirical 'right' way to speak or write any language, and so-called rules of grammar are little more than guidelines, imposed retroactively, and often based, at least in English's case, on systems of syntax belonging to earlier, now-inapplicable languages.

That's no reason not to try, though, and in cases such as iTouch and MAC where there is a right way of doing things, there's no reason other than laziness and good old-fashioned ignorance to get things wrong.

And now, if you'll excuse me, a nurse is here with my four o'clock Valium and she looks forward to my lectures on the lexical and syntactical infelicities on my chart. ●

Deputy Editor Christopher Phin has taken on the role of office grouch, despite being the youngest member of the team. Nurse, bring on some more Valium!

Oh Britain, how I miss you already…

Brad Gibson returns to America, but reminisces about the UK

ACROSS THE POND...

If you listen regularly to the *MacFormat This Week* podcast, then you know I've been living in Britain for a little over two years. But for both personal and professional reasons I've returned to America. It was a tough decision to make and one that didn't come lightly.

I've been back less than 24 hours and I'm already comparing what I miss and don't miss about the country I've grown to appreciate in so many ways.

I miss the British iPhone. You've got a fantastic tariff plan, my friends, probably the best in the world. AT&T is ripping off Americans like a thief in the night – a 24-month contract versus 18 months from O2, $10 more a month for data than on the original iPhone plan, and an additional fee of at least $5 a month to cover texting, which Brits get included in their tariff along with free WiFi access. Extortion, thanks to Apple.

> "I've been back less than 24 hours and I'm already comparing what I miss and don't miss about the country I've grown to appreciate"

I miss Britain's fast, price-competitive web access. Competition has been stifled in the US allowing cable TV systems to create a monopoly on internet access. Rates versus actual speed are almost criminal. Please, British Mac users, next time you want to complain about web access, think about your poor huddling masses in America.

I miss British Mac User Groups. The ones I visited always showed a true love of their technology and I always felt at home. I can't urge you enough to embrace one near you and go to one of the monthly meetings. Check out page 120 for our monthly list of UK Mac groups.

I miss the London Underground, a pub on every corner and great British microbrewery beer. I miss Borough Market and eating a chorizo sandwich standing in the rain; the weather is one thing I won't miss. Let's face it, Britain, the last two summers have been awful. I can live with taking a jacket everywhere I go, but give me a break with the rain, will ya!

And, of course, I miss my friends at *MacFormat*. Britain will always be in my heart and my mind. ●

Brad Gibson is the producer and host of the *MacFormat This Week* podcast. Download it via *iTunes* or from www.macformat.co.uk.

FUTURE MAC

Intel's future technologies

Intel Nehalem-based laptop chipsets ship next year

Last month's Intel Developer's Forum offered several tantalising hints at Apple's product road-maps, with particular focus on mobile Macs.

While nothing was definitively revealed, General Manager of Intel's Mobility Group, Dadi Perlmutte, discussed current and future Intel mobile processor technologies, which seem most likely to end up tomorrow's mobile Mac.

Perlmutter confirmed that high-end notebooks based on Intel chipsets can support Quad Core configurations. Such laptops should be reaching market now, which suggests Apple may eventually introduce the technologies within future generations of the MacBook Pro.

Intel also discussed plans to move to its next-gen Nehalem technologies, which feature a new system called "Turbo Mode". This allows processors to switch off unused cores for improved power management. It requires no operating system intervention and is fully detected and managed by the hardware. If it has detected an idle core, it is able to reallocate that power to the other cores.

Nehalem-based laptop processors can also integrate the memory controller and graphics core, boosting graphics and system performance. Nehalem processors will offer two to eight cores, with technologies designed to make communication between the processors and the system faster. Each core should be capable of executing two software threads simultaneously.

Intel bigwig, Pat Gelsinger, showed a range of wafers at Intel Developer Forum, including 8-core Nehalem chips.

Intel's first Nehalem chip – for desktops – has been branded Core i7 and will ship in the fourth quarter this year, and Nehalem-based server products will reach production this year. Nehalem laptops won't appear until the second half of 2009.

Intel also revealed its X18-M and X25-M Mainstream SATA solid-state drives for computers with capacities up to 80GB, with 160GB versions slated to ship next year. As used in built-to-order versions of the MacBook Air, SSD drives are faster, smaller, require less power and more reliable than regular hard drives, though they do at present cost much more than regular drives. ●

Apple in numbers

$159.37bn

Apple's market value when it eclipsed that of Google in Aug 08.

STOCK WATCH

We keep our eyes peeled for Apple's market share

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website. For free real-time share prices go to www.advfn.com

Apple seems to be plagued by product glitches, proving that even the best companies are not infallible. The iPhone has had connection problems, but Apple's recent software update for the iPhone didn't specifically say whether it would fix those problems, but that it "improves communication with 3G networks".

Technical problems aside, Apple's stock price has had a mini recovery and is up 7% since the last report and is up a massive 50% since its lowest point of 2008 ($115.44) which it hit at the end of February. August has also seen both Credit Suisse and UBS initiate coverage on Apple, with both having a favourable outlook – the former giving an 'outperform' rating and setting the target price to $200, and the latter having a buy rating and target price of $195 on the stock. Even if stock price Armageddon has been avoided it will take a hit of huge proportions to get Apple past the $200 level and heading back into the stratosphere. Even Jobs cannot brush aside the great 'credit crunch' bear.

100%

Control&Flexibility

Ultra-fast dedicated servers with Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processors

DEDICATED SERVERS FROM £49pm

	DS 250	DS 450	DS 650	DS 850
Processor speed	2 x 1.8 GHz	2 x 2.13 GHz	2 x 2.4 GHz	2 x 2.66 GHz
RAM	512 MB	1 GB	2 GB	3 GB
Hard drives	80 GB	250 GB	2 x 250 GB	2 x 500 GB
IP addresses	2	2	2	2
Bandwidth	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Linux	£49 pm	£69 pm	£99 pm	£189 pm
Windows	£59 pm	£79 pm	£109 pm	£199 pm

- Independent remote management with keyboard, video & mouse control
- Root access – total administrator control
- Choice of Windows & Linux OS
- MySQL and MS SQL databases
- Unlimited bandwidth
- Your server up and running in minutes
- FREE SETUP when you pay annually
- UK based data centres

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER

ONE MONTH FREE

ON ALL NEW WINDOWS DEDICATED SERVERS

Unlimited bandwidth with all servers

24/7 UK SUPPORT
INCLUDED WITH ALL DEDICATED SERVERS

intel Core 2 Duo inside
192.168.121.121
SYSTEM STATUS OK
intel Leap ahead
Intel® Core™ 2 Duo Processor

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER ONE MONTH FREE ON ALL NEW WINDOWS DEDICATED SERVERS

Get up and running in minutes

fasthosts.co.uk/dedicated

0870 888 3392

Prices exclude VAT

fasthosts

Win! One of three desktop drives from Western Digital

Easy data storage for backing up huge amounts of files

PRIZES WORTH £870 IN TOTAL

This month *MacFormat* has teamed up with Western Digital to offer three lucky readers some whopping desktop hard drives. These are Western Digital My Book Studio Edition II 2TB boxes, which should solve all your storage needs.

These are the biggest desktop drives that Western Digital offers, with a capacity of two terabytes. They are also RAID-enabled and use 30% less power than their predecessors. Each has two FireWire ports (1x 400 and 1x 800), a fast USB 2.0 port and even a cutting-edge eSATA port, and can read and write to them in blisteringly fast times from your Mac.

These drives work right out of the box, but software is included to help you partition the drives and set a backup schedule if you want to use it. You could use OS X's *Disc Utility* or *Time Machine* to do the same job.

All Western Digital drives have light indicators to show you how the drive is operating, how full it is, and whether any warnings are afoot that you should take notice of. For more information on Western Digital's various offerings for the Mac, please visit **www.wdc.com**.

THE QUESTION

For your chance to win one of three Western Digital My Book Studio Edition II 2TB drives, answer the following question correctly:

How many gigabytes are there in two terabytes?

A) 20,000
B) 2,000
C) 200

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter the competition, either text WESTERN followed by a space then your answer (A,B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on **Competition**.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
- If you do not want to receive information relating to future offers and promotions, please include the word STOP at the end of your text message.
- Texts will be charged at £1 plus your standard network tariff rate.
- Competition closes on 14 October 2008.

The wonderful world of widgets

We've played with the latest widgets, and put the top four on your disc

GoogleMiniWeb
http://gooogle-widgets.blogspot.com
This slim, trim little widget lets you search, browse the web, check Gmail, eBay, other shopping websites and YouTube from within your *Dashboard*. There's no need to reach for a full-strength browser.

WORLD POPULATION COUNTER
6,726,529,928

Population Counter 2.0
www.jonbrown.org
They say there's one born every minute, but just how many inmates are there right now on planet Earth? *Population Counter 2.0* calcuates that population, based on analysis of death and birth rates.

Translator

Language Translator
www.widgetop.com
As you may expect, this widget translates text between 22 different languages using Google's language translation service. It can detect the source language and now offers support for Korean.

RefurbMe
MacBook Pro

RefurbMe
www.refurb.me
RefurbMe watches for all the latest refurbished Apple products as they are made available through its online stores in 15 countries, including the US and UK. You can save up to 40% on the kit that's featured in the store.

APPLE EDUCATION

A new Apple for student (and teacher)

The Mac becomes Europe's most-wanted education platform

Apple just continues to gain market share, with its education efforts bearing particular fruit, according to the analysts at Gartner, whose Q2 08 figures show Apple to be the number one PC manufacturer in the education segment across Europe, a position the company has hung onto for eight successive quarters.

Gartner's researchers identified Apple as behind an impressive 19.2% of all CPUs sold into European education.

Apple's also the leading manufacturer for education in the UK with 17.3% market share, the analysts said.

Apple's education-focused fight-back against Dell began in 1999, when Dell surpassed Apple in the US education market. Apple finally beat Dell's laptop sales in the first quarter of this year.

Apple remains number two to Dell in the US education market overall, because of Dell's strength in desktop PCs – Dell had 38.4% of the overall market to Apple's 22.8% in Q1.

A 2008 survey of US college students planning to buy laptops this year revealed that 43% are looking to buy a Mac.●

Will anticipated Apple laptop upgrades this month push education sales higher?

EVENTS DIARY

Apple Expo, Paris
17-20 September
Though Apple won't be there, Europe's biggest Mac show returns, offering many free conferences, workshops and seminars.
www.apple-expo.com

MacLive Expo
23-25 October
The leading UK Mac event has something for Mac users of all possible stripes, including design, print, photography and consumer apps.
www.macliveexpo.co.uk

Handheld Learning
13-15 October
Apple will be here explaining use of the iPhone SDK to create mobile learning apps.
www.handheldlearning2008.com

Mac FORMAT

Future Publishing Ltd,
30 Monmouth Street,
Bath BA1 2BW
Tel 01225 442 244
Fax 01225 732 295
macformat@futurenet.co.uk
www.macformat.co.uk

EDITORIAL
EDITOR **Graham Barlow**
gbarlow@futurenet.co.uk
DEPUTY EDITOR **Christopher Phin**
cphin@futurenet.co.uk
OPERATIONS EDITOR **Michelle Camaibatiki**
mcamaibatiki@futurenet.co.uk
REVIEWS EDITOR **James Ellerbeck**
jellerbeck@futurenet.co.uk
ART EDITOR **Alex Thomas**
athomas@futurenet.co.uk
NEW MEDIA EDITOR **Simon Holland**
sholland@futurenet.co.uk

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS
Clem Chambers, Andy Dyer, Elizabeth Elliott, Bill Gallop, Brad Gibson, Craig Grannell, Tim Hardwick, Hollin Jones, Cliff Joseph, Caspian Kidd, MacFixlt, Rob Mead-Green, Trevor Middleton, Steve Paris, Mark Sparrow, Tom Spurway, Ian Tromp, Luis Villazon, Kevin J Wolfe

ART CONTRIBUTORS
Alamy, Apple, Nick Diggory, Future Photo Studio (Neil Godwin, Simon Lees, Gavin Roberts), Getty Images, MagicTorch, Neil Freestone, Photolibrary.com, WireImage

MANAGEMENT
GROUP SENIOR EDITOR **Nick Merritt**
CREATIVE DIRECTOR **Robin Abbott**
DESIGN DIRECTOR **Matthew Williams**
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR **Jim Douglas**

ADVERTISING
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Andrew Tilbury atilbury@futurenet.co.uk
ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR
Clare Williamson cwilliamson@futurenet.co.uk
SENIOR SALES MANAGER
Matthew Bailey mbailey@futurenet.co.uk
DIGITAL ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Alison Watson awatson@futurenet.co.uk

MARKETING
BRAND MANAGER
Jennifer Wagner jwagner@futurenet.co.uk

CIRCULATION
TRADE MARKETING MANAGER
Stuart Brown sbrown@futurenet.co.uk
SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER
Joanne Bray jbray@futurenet.co.uk
HEAD OF ACQUISITIONS
Helen Ward hward@futurenet.co.uk

PRINT & PRODUCTION
PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR
Charlene Vaughan cvaughan@futurenet.co.uk
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Rose Griffiths rgriffiths@futurenet.co.uk
HEAD OF PRODUCTION
Richard Mason rmason@futurenet.co.uk

LICENSING
HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL LICENSING
Tim Hudson thudson@futurenet.co.uk
Tel: + 44 (0)1225 442244
Fax: + 44 (0)1225 732275

FUTURE PUBLISHING LIMITED
PUBLISHING DIRECTOR **Stuart Anderton**
sanderton@futurenet.co.uk
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER **Simon Wear**
UK CHIEF EXECUTIVE **Robert Price**
CHIEF EXECUTIVE **Stevie Spring**

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Phone: **0844 848 2852**
Web: **www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk**
Email: **future@subscription.co.uk**

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE…
Wednesday 15 October 2008

Printed in the UK by
Wyndeham Heron on behalf of Future.
Distributed in the UK by:
Seymour Distribution Ltd
2 East Poultry Avenue
London, EC1A 9PT
Tel: 0207 429 4000

Want to work for Future?
Visit www.futurenet.com/jobs

ABC 27,216
Jan-June 2008
A member of the Audited Bureau of Circulations

Future produces carefully targeted special-interest magazines, websites and events for people who share a passion. We publish more than 170 magazines and websites and 100 international editions of our titles are published across the world.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR).

www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive: Stevie Spring
Non-executive Chairman: Roger Parry
Group Finance Director: John Bowman
Tel +44 (0)20 7042 4000 (London)
Tel +44 (0)1225 442244 (Bath)

© Future Publishing Limited 2008. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be used or reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. Future Publishing Limited (company number 2008885) is registered in England and Wales. The registered office of Future Publishing Limited is at Beauford Court, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. All information contained in this magazine is for information only and is, as far as we are aware, correct at the time of going to press. Future cannot accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in such information. Readers are advised to contact manufacturers and retailers directly with regard to the price of products/services referred to in this magazine. If you submit unsolicited material to us, you automatically grant Future a licence to publish your submission in whole or in part in all editions of the magazine, including licensed editions worldwide and in any physical or digital format throughout the world. Any material you submit is sent at your risk and, although every care is taken, neither Future nor its employees, agents or subcontractors shall be liable for loss or damage.

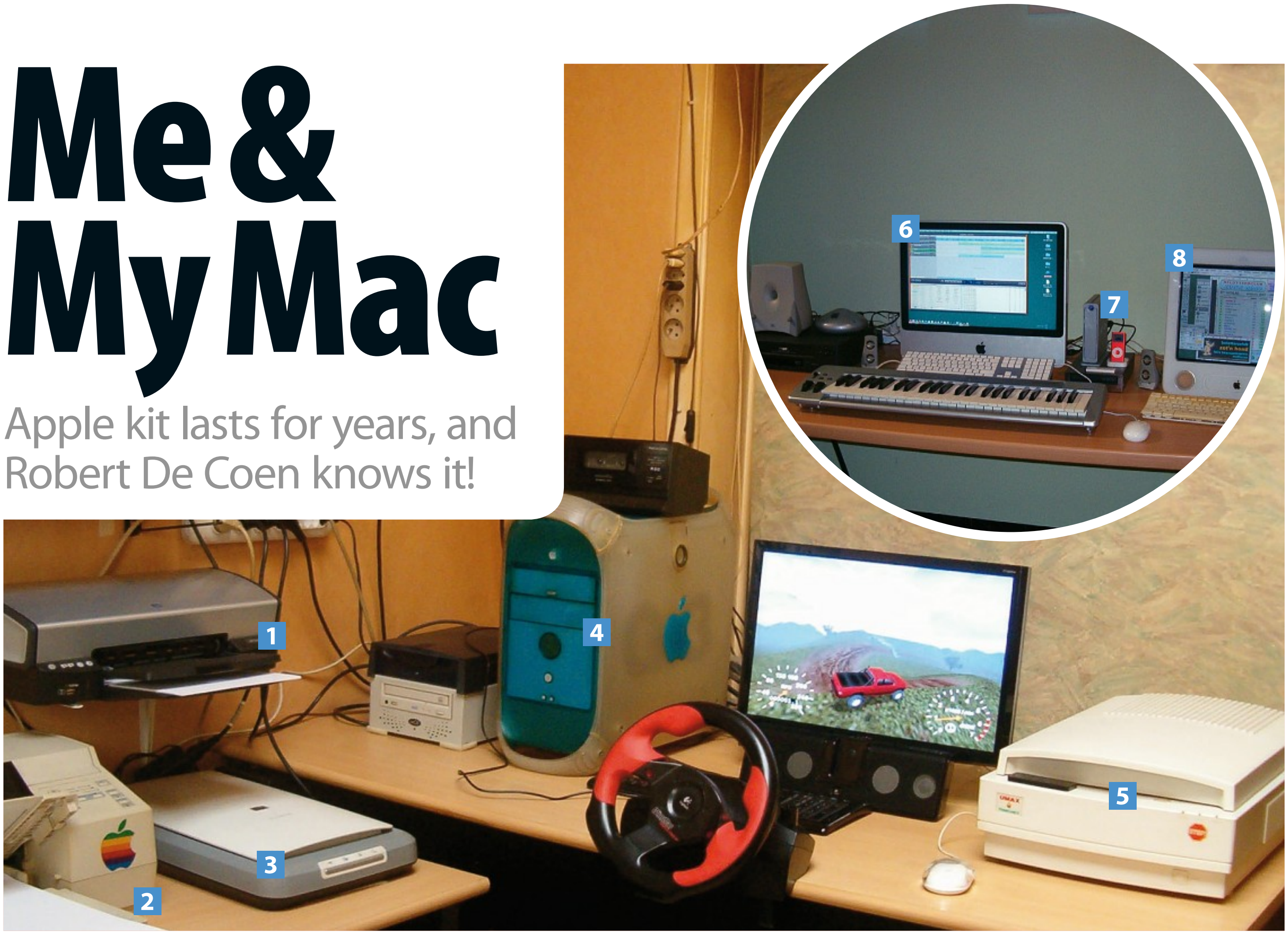
FSC Mixed Sources Product group from well-managed forests and other controlled sources Cert no. TT-COC-1815 www.fsc.org © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

The text paper in this magazine is totally chlorine free. The paper manufacturer and Future Publishing have been independently certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.

recycle
When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

Me & My Mac

Apple kit lasts for years, and Robert De Coen knows it!



1 **HP Deskjet 5940** This more modern inkjet is actually connected to the iMac that sits behind this work area; it only prints up to A4 pages.

2 **Epson Stylus Color 1520** This, though, is a bit more of a monster. It can print pages up to 17x22-inch, and so is ideal for page proofs.

3 **HP HP Scanjet G3010** Again, this more modern USB scanner is hooked up to the iMac; it's a competent performer, too.

4 **Apple Power Mac G3** Robert has actually souped this Mac up: it now totes a 500MHz G4 processor and a dual-layer DVD burner.

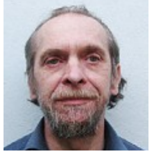
5 **Umax PowerLook II** Connected to the G3 using the venerable though speedy SCSI connection, this is a beast of a scanner.

6 **Apple iMac 20-inch 2.66GHz** While the G3 suffices for Robert's work, he's splashed out on a shiny new iMac for *iLife* applications.

7 **LaCie d2 Quadra 250GB** We're big fans of LaCie's rugged, simple d2 cases. This hard disk is sitting on top of another DL DVD writer.

8 **Apple eMac 1.25GHz** The eMac was a cracking machine, and we're delighted to see Robert's still going strong in his studio.

We hear lots of stories here at *MacFormat* from people who have convinced their friends and families to switch to the Mac, but few have quite the same edge of the surreal as the one Robert De Coen tells about how he convinced the teacher of a Flemish pipe band to abandon his PC. "A friend burned some MIDI tracks onto CD for his students so they could study the tracks at home, but that didn't work on a hi-fi player, only on a PC," he says. "So he called me for a solution, knowing that I did some music stuff on my Macs. I told him to mail me the files and then come to my place, a journey that would take him 20 minutes by car, where his master CD would be waiting for him. I converted the MIDI files to AIFF with *QuickTime* and burned the CD. A few minutes later my friend arrived and was surprised that the CD was already done and playing; two weeks later he bought a Mac and Cinema Display! A few months later he called to say that his wife bought a MacBook. They are very happy people!"



Name:
Robert De Coen
Occupation:
Printer
Been using a Mac for:
Over 20 years
Favourite hardware:
iMac 20-inch
Favourite software:
Photoshop

Robert himself has never been "poisoned by Windows", as he puts it; the printing firm he works for bought its first Mac in 1987 to run *PageMaker*, so he's been a Mac user for more than two decades. He did dabble with Windows 95 in *VirtualPC* for a couple of months, but he vowed never to do so again; that may prove to be a little premature, however, since he's now thinking of installing Windows XP SP2 just so he can play old games – such as *Monster Truck Madness 2* – that only work on a PC.

That love of racing games doesn't mean he has to abandon the Mac altogether, though; as well as regularly using *Photoshop* and *GarageBand*, he also plays *4x4 EVO* online. The Mac is "fast and easy," he says. "In the early days of printing everything was done by hand and took a lot of time, sometimes taking several days if some pictures had to be made by a studio."

> "He did dabble with Windows 95 in VirtualPC for a couple of months, but vowed never to do so again"

Though Robert already has a pretty extensive Mac setup, there's just one thing he'd like to add: an Elgato EyeTV 250 Plus. It's not for watching television as such; Robert plans to use its built-in hardware encoder to help him convert over a hundred home videos – parties, family get-togethers, holidays – to H.264 files on his Mac.

While some of Robert's kit might look a little retro, it just proves that Mac kit has a fantastically long life. And remember that the sleek aluminium iMac that adorns one of his desks will also look very dated to our eyes when we look back at it twenty years from now! ●

Want to share your Mac setup with us? Email christopher.phin@futurenet.co.uk

Choose Your Own Features!

AWARD WINNING DESIGNER HOSTING PACKAGES

Manage Multiple Domains,
Sites and Packages

Choice of Windows
or Linux Hosting

Scripting, Databases
and Web Tools Included

For a full features list visit
http://www.names.co.uk/designer

Reasons to Choose Namesco

- Award Winning Hosting
- Fast UK Based Support
- FREE Domain Included

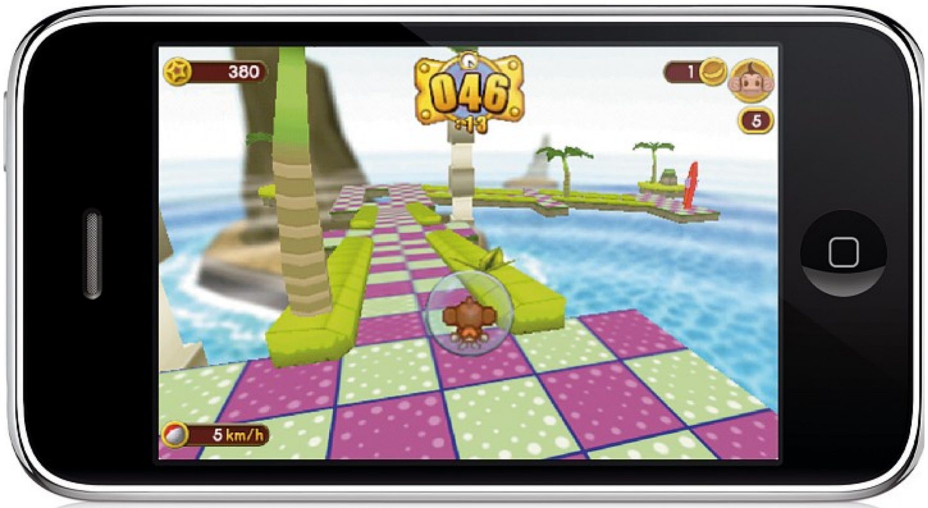
> *“ Namesco has proven itself many times to be a fast, reliable and professional way of registering domains / hosting. The customer service is fantastic. ”*
>
> **James Druce, Crasherkids.**

www.names.co.uk
0845 363 8888

Namesco
A DADA COMPANY

- Domain Management
- Broadband & SDSL
- Email Services
- Business Hosting
- Servers & VPS

Namesco Limited. Acton House, Perdiswell Park, Worcester. WR3 7GD. Cheques, Direct Debit and credit/debit cards accepted. Calls to 0845 numbers are charged at BT 0845 rates. 5p connection fee, maximum 4p per minute within the UK from a BT landline, other network call rates may vary. Some ‘Unlimited’ features may be subject to quota restrictions. “Best Shared Hosting Award Winner 2008™ is a trade mark of the Internet Service Provider Association, used under licence.



TOP: Gordon notes, "Our artists were happy to have so much texture space to play with and a phenomenal screen to show everything off!"

LEFT: Ocean approached *Super Monkey Ball* for iPhone like it would a console game, rather than a traditional mobile phone title.

Words **Craig Grannell**

I use my Mac for...

Making iPhone games

We talk to a programmer of Super Monkey Ball

PROFILE

Name: Gordon Wood
Location: Charlottetown, Canada
Occupation: Senior programmer
Company: Other Ocean Interactive
System(s): MacBook Pro
Web: www.otherocean.com

MacFormat: What do you use Macs for at your company?
Gordon Wood: All the programming on our iPhone titles. Our programmers come mainly from the console world where PCs running Windows are commonplace, so they had to adjust to using a Mac and *Xcode*. The transition was very smooth, and we now have some people who want to use Macs for all their work, not just for iPhone!

MF: How did you come to work on *Super Monkey Ball* for iPhone?
GW: We'd done work for SEGA previously that they were quite pleased with, so when the opportunity came about to develop the *Super Monkey Ball* demo for the Apple SDK announcement they believed we were the right choice. The demo went well and we entered into a contract for the game.

MF: How did you convert *Super Monkey Ball* to iPhone?
GW: We were surprised at how powerful the iPhone was. It was clear we had to treat *Super Monkey Ball* like a console game. We got the core game up and running quickly, due in large part to the flexibility of the iPhone SDK. From day one, our focus was on pushing the hardware as hard as possible to make the game really come to life on the iPhone.

MF: What software and hardware did you use to work on the game?
GW: We used MacBook Pros, iMacs and PCs to make the game. Code was written on a Mac running *Xcode* and the iPhone SDK. Our art team mostly used PCs since we had to hit the ground running with this project and they were already set up. They used *Maya* for 3D modelling and *Photoshop* for everything else.

MF: How does working on iPhone differ from other mobile platforms?
GW: The iPhone uses OpenGL ES for its graphics, which means developers can get up and running quickly, since most games programmers are familiar with OpenGL. The iPhone SDK and its libraries are feature-rich and easy to use. In many ways, it's like having a handheld Mac.

MF: Are you pleased with the response the game got?
GW: The response has been great, but when you're developing a game you generally know the type of response you're going to get. Our studio is full of gamers and we have internal testers. We were excited – we knew we had a good game on a good platform. Some people find it quite challenging at first, but it's *Super Monkey Ball* – it's supposed to be challenging! ●

£1 Web Hosting

from UK's No1 Web Host*

£1

LIMITED PERIOD ONLY
Shared Hosting
only £1 for
the first 6 months

SITE TITLE
About Our Company
SITETITLE
About me!
SiteTitle

Also available...

domain names
Register yours or transfer now!
from only £2·79 per year

hosting
From the UK's award-winning host
was ~~£3·99~~
now £1 per month

InstantSite
Create a professional site instantly
from £1·99 per month

eCommerce
Start your online business today
from £8·99 per month

Sign up now
www.123-reg.co.uk
Use this code for extra 5% off: **macformat**

123-reg.co.uk

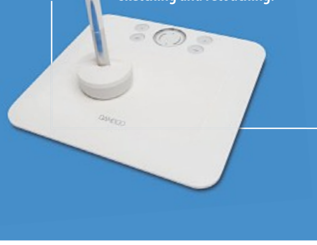
*123-reg is the first host to register 1 million .uk domain names on one IPS tag

Letters

Write in and let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat magazine and everything Apple

WRITE AND WIN!

MacFormat Star Letter prize
Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.co.uk** – if yours gets picked as the *MacFormat* Star Letter, you'll be sent a Wacom Bamboo Fun, an advanced input device for drawing, painting, sketching and retouching!



CLIPBOARD

"Thanks also for an excellent magazine and the podcasts. I've found both invaluable since moving over to Mac from the dreaded Microsoft in January this year. Keep up the good work."
Ann Reeves

"Thanks for overseeing production of such an attractive mag."
Clive Read

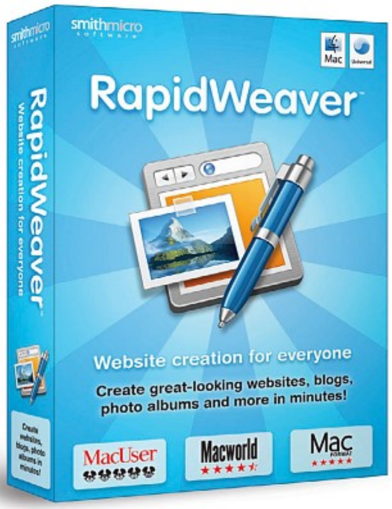
"I am a fairly new reader to your excellent magazine having seen the light and moved from a constantly crashing XP machine to a 24-inch iMac last year."
Dan Melbourne

RAPID SUPPORT

I read your review of *RapidWeaver 4.0* in issue 198. I was very impressed, so I decided to purchase a copy. Everything lived up to your review.

One thing you forgot to mention in the review was the level of support. I had a problem with a contact page and the php code within it. My host (Fasthosts) is not quite compatible with this form. I contacted support via the online forums. Within minutes a fantastic guy called Aron replied. I gave him temporary access to my site via FTP. He downloaded the troublesome page, re-coded it, then uploaded it again. He then emailed me to explain the changes for future use.

I was amazed at this level of real time support. He was swift in his replies, polite and very efficient. In today's society quite often when you buy a product and then it fails, you have to jump through hoops to get it fixed. Good support goes a long way to securing long-term customers.
Mr M. Nottage


smithmicro
RapidWeaver
Website creation for everyone
Create great-looking websites, blogs, photo albums and more in minutes!
MacUser
Macworld
Mac

Realmac's impressive level of support for its web creation app, *RapidWeaver 4.0*, has proved to be a real hit with the readers.

MacFormat replies: Thanks for your email, Mr Nottage. It's always good to get reports of great customer service, especially after we've recommend a product in *MacFormat*. We'll take issue with your claim that we didn't mention the great level of customer support the company offers in the review – actually we did!

I DON'T AGREE!

Thank you for your magazine. I always get it a little late, since I live in Papua New Guinea.

I have to disagree with most of you about Leopard: I love the new, slightly transparent menu bar on the top, and the 3D Dock. It is just so Apple! In fact, there is little I do not love: Spotlight is always great, but the new help menu is also fantastic. I love *Time Machine*, which takes away my backup worries; the display is crisp, clean and, since I now can easily put everything in the Documents folder to find it and do not have to keep a Desktop folder for the most urgent stuff, well-ordered. A user's dream, in fact. What is best of all is the faces of my Windows friends, actually: every one of them is stunned by the Apple experience, although some would rather swallow their own tongue, than to admit that Apple is just supreme compared to what they have.

Alas, not everyone will be convinced, but what I find astounding is the fact that not one person I have ever met who has switched to the Apple Mac has ever

★STAR LETTER WINNER | THE iSYNC ON THE CAKE

Maybe I haven't searched in the right places, but it appears there is a huge gap in the market. Okay, so the iPhone 3G has the limelight at the moment, and people change their mobiles as often as their socks, but I make the majority of my calls on my home or office phone rather than on a mobile.

Check out the list of phones that are *iSync*-compatible – there are loads of them. But what do they all have in common? They are all mobile phones. There isn't a single landline handset that you can sync with your contacts database. Sure, there are home phones with storage for names and numbers, but you have to key the data in by hand, and very few have a SIM card to transfer the data elsewhere (for example, to a second handset). Add to that, there are very few handsets with Bluetooth so you can use a headset at home or in the office.

After a pretty exhaustive search on the internet, it pulled up the Bluetooth and USB-equipped Siemens S675 which can sync with Microsoft *Outlook*, and for which someone has written a small application called *Landline* to use it with a Mac. But surely it can't be beyond the landline manufacturers to get their handsets into the 21st century?
Andy Greenhough

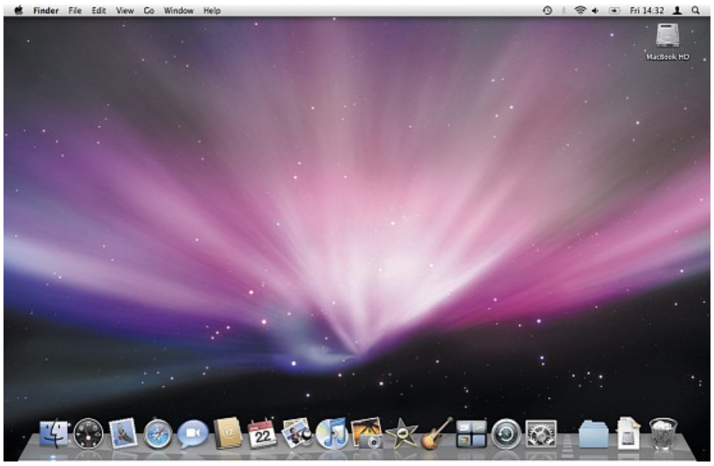
MacFormat replies: Very good point, Andy, and congratulations on winning this issue's Letter of the Month prize. Maybe Apple should come up with the iHomeiPhone or something similar? Let us know if there are any gadgets and gizmos that Apple should invent. Email **macformat@futurenet.co.uk**.

SIEMENS
SMS
OK
SIEMENS
Gigaset S670

The Siemens S675, one of the few landline phones that can sync with a Mac.

regretted it. The only regret everyone – including me – had, was not having switched sooner...
Jens

MacFormat replies: The cosmetic changes in Leopard seem to have upset the minority, yet very vocal, user-interface-obsessed Mac users more than the average user. Okay, we admit that includes most of our team, but we do have a valid point. The transparent menu bar seemed like a triumph of form over function, making it hard to find options that should be easily available, but now Apple has given us the ability to turn off the transparent effect we're more than happy. The verdict is still out on the 3D shelf, though…



Loved by some and loathed by others, the new 3D Leopard Dock is still taking a bit of getting used to for some.

DOUBLE PROTECTION?

In the current issue of *MacFormat* you mention the desirability of downloading *iAntivirus*. I already have installed Intego's *Virus Barrier X4*. Can I, and is there any point in, downloading *iAntivirus* as well?

Have been enjoying your magazine for years now – it's excellent.
Larry Drummond

MacFormat replies: Thanks for your email and we're glad you're enjoying the mag. With security concerns higher than ever on the agenda for Mac users, it's worth being protected, just in case. You could download and try out *iAntivirus* (**www.iantivirus.com**), but you should disable *VirusBarrier* first. As a rule you should never run two antivirus programs together, since they will conflict and the results are never good.

To be honest you've already got all the protection you need with *VirusBarrier*, which won our Group Test of antivirus programs back in issue 195. Also, the new *VirusBarrier X5 10.5.3* is the only antivirus program to eradicate malware from the iPhone and iPod touch.

We should also take this opportunity to apologise to all the Tiger users who tried to use the free *iAntivirus* after reading our tutorial last issue – the program is still in beta and requirements are changing all the time. It now appears that the program doesn't support OS X 10.4 Tiger, and is OS X 10.5 Leopard only.

BLU-RAY MACS

In replay to the Star Letter winner "Blu-ray Macs" in your August 2008 issue, I couldn't agree more. Whilst I've been – and still am – a PC user for the last 25 years, I've found myself continually pulled towards buying a couple of Macs over the last few months, but I want a 24-inch iMac with a Blu-ray player. For the last few months I've been starting to wonder if this was just me, but your Star Letter from August has at last put my mind at rest.
Chris Potts

MacFormat replies: We agree, Chris – come on Apple, it's time for Blu-ray as standard. ●

TIME MACHINE QUERY

I am a very recent Mac convert, having bought a MacBook just two weeks ago. I am loving the way in which OS X just 'works', and am just starting to get used to the Mac way of doing things.

One of the features which caught my eye when shopping for a laptop was *Time Machine* – having a backup system which operates seamlessly is very important, as I always have my MacBook out and about with me and would hate to lose lots of precious photos and files.

Is it possible to leave my backup hard drive at home, connected to the wireless router and back up over the internet when I am away during the week? I would probably look at using one of the current crop of 1TB or 500GB disks on the market, rather than *Time Machine*, as I do not need the wireless functionality already provided by the existing router.

Is this possible or do I just have to accept a weekly backup?
Pete Dean

MacFormat replies: While we're sure it must be technically feasible to back up over the internet to a *Time Machine* drive at home, so far nobody has provided a solution. You'd be better off considering an online backup solution if you're frequently out and about with your MacBook. Alternatively, invest in a cheap portable hard drive and back up onto that.

Attach a portable HD and *Time Machine* will automatically back up your Mac.

Virtual Private Servers

Way more Powerful
than shared,
but a fraction of
the cost of dedicated.

Easy managed
Choice of distro
Custom setup
Fraction the cost
Powered by Virtuozzo
Dell server

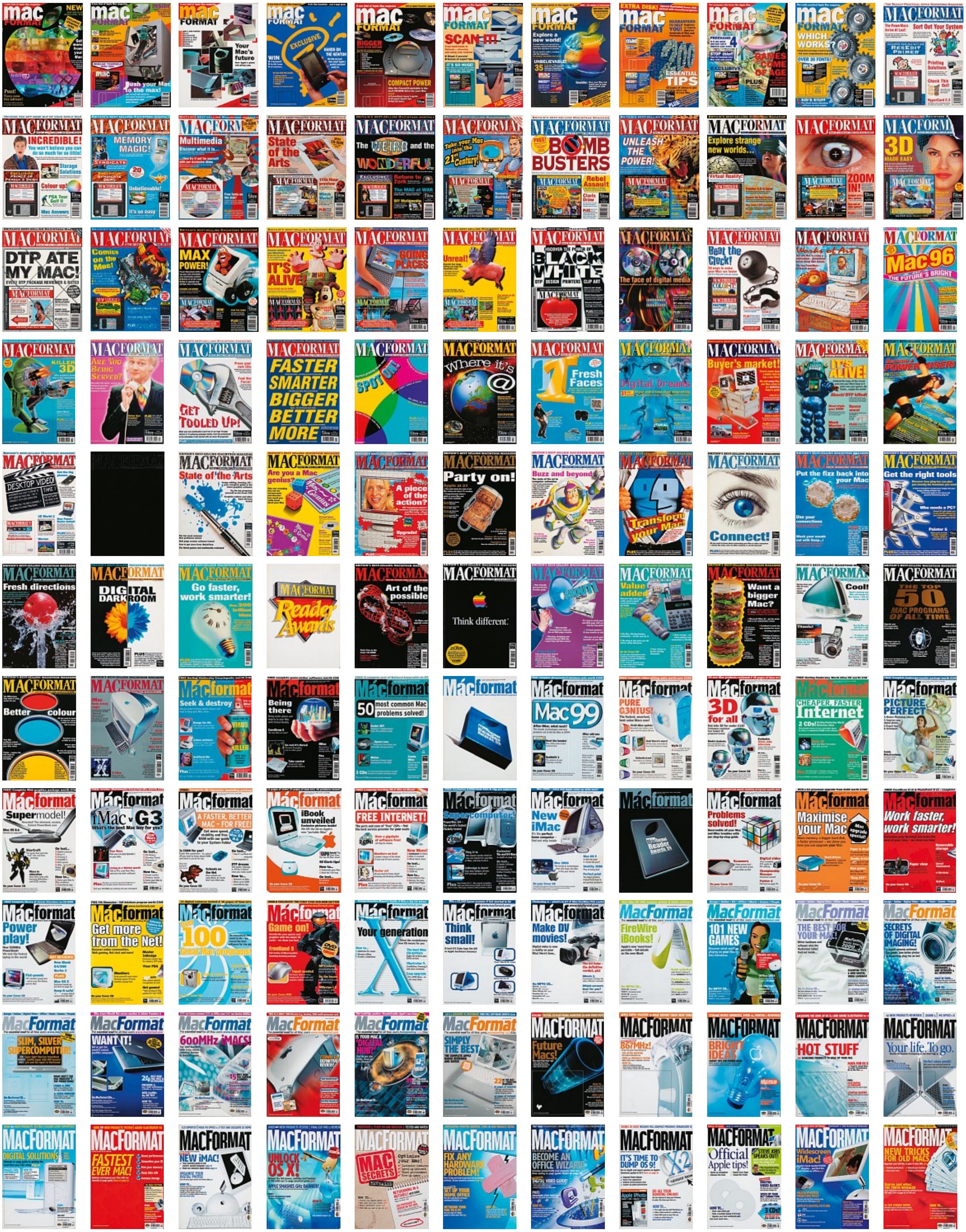
We could go on...

sales@blacknight.com
www.blacknight.com
0844 4849361

BLACKNIGHT SOLUTIONS

powered by Parallels

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MACFORMAT!



Happy Birthday, MacFormat

As MacFormat celebrates its 200th birthday, we take a nostalgic look back to 1993 and the way things were…

Can you remember what you were doing in March 1993? Not only did Intel ship its first ever Pentium chips and Billy Crystal host the 65th Academy Awards, but also a new magazine aimed at an exciting and emerging market was launched. That magazine was *MacFormat* and it was aimed at the 'home Apple Macintosh user', a group of computer users that was an entirely new prospect at the time. Turn the clock forward another 15 years and a whopping 200 issues later, and we're proud to say that *MacFormat* is still going strong and celebrating its anniversary with a 27% year-on-year circulation, confirming its position as the UK's best-selling Mac magazine.

When *MacFormat* launched, Macs had been very expensive beige boxes for a long time, but all that was about to change. Apple had just released the Performa range in the UK. The Performa was, according to Apple's ▶

MacFormat Editors: THEN AND NOW

Alex Summersby

Late 1993 – mid 2000

What are your memories of your time on the magazine?
It was an incredibly eventful, often turbulent, period for Apple and the Mac. Apple launched some of its first "consumer" models, partnered with Motorola and IBM to develop the PowerPC chip, and then introduced the PowerPC-based Macs.

Favourite moment while you were Ed?
No contest: the first iMac, 1998. It had been in development before Steve Jobs took over as (interim) CEO, but it marked a new dawn and confirmed that Apple had a future.

What are you doing now?
Editing the *Photoshop Focus Guide* series and occasional other titles for Future.

Do you still use Apple products?
Wouldn't use anything else! As far as computers are concerned, anyway. I still can't quite justify buying an iPhone – but now that the new 3G model is here…

advertising blurb: "The new generation of Macintosh that all generations can use". What Apple was really trying to say in a roundabout way was that the Performas were the first Macs to be directly targeted at the home computer market. With prices starting at £799 for the basic model, Apple was finally going to seriously compete with the IBM-compatible home PC. *MacFormat* was designed to be the perfect mag for this new type of Mac user. Few thought it would succeed, but we proved all the doubters wrong.

Here we take a trip down memory lane and reveal the story of *MacFormat*'s beginnings, and how we, and Apple, got to where we are today. Close your eyes, breathe deeply and let us take you back to February 1993 where, in Future Publishing's offices in Bath, a new magazine was about to be born…

> "The first iMac had been in development before Jobs took over… it marked a new dawn and confirmed that Apple had a future"
>
> **Alex Summersby on his favourite moment**

February 1993: Beginnings

The pace of Apple's new product releases had radically stepped up over the last two years. In the 1980s, the company was bringing out maybe one or two machines a year; in January 1993, Apple launched more Macs in one day than in any two previous years combined! And there would be plenty more new machines on the way in the next few months, too.

One constant factor in Apple's sales policy had been a steady downward pressure on prices – from being an elitist-only computer, the Mac was now well on the way to becoming a true home user's machine. For an ambitious and young publishing company with a proven track record in home computer magazines, this was too much of an opportunity to miss.

"In the early 90s, Apple decided to push into the home, with the launch of the LC series and then the Performa range," recalls

HELPING YOU GET MORE OUT OF YOUR APPLE MAC
MACFORMAT
ISSUE 12 ■ MAY 1994 ■ £3.95 WITH HD DISK
INCREDIBLE!
You won't believe you can do so much for so little!
Storage Solutions
Colour up!
PGA Tour Golf II
Mac Answers
EXCLUSIVE

The first 13 issues of *MacFormat* came with a floppy disk (remember them?), but issue 14 was the first magazine to ever covermount a CD-ROM.

10 CLASSIC MACFORMAT COVERS

1. Issue 1, March/April 1993
And she's off! The good ship *MacFormat* sets sail into the stormy seas of the UK publishing market. Having the exclusive *Lemmings* demo on the cover disk was a real scoop at the time, as was actually having a cover disk.

2. Issue 11, April 1994
With 10 issues under our belt it was time for a refresh. The new wider logo became a mainstay of the *MacFormat* cover for the next 57 issues, making it one of our longest lasting logos ever.

3. Issue 14, July 1994
MacFormat now came in CD-ROM and HD Disk editions. To mark the first ever cover CD we celebrated by showing "how you can combine video, sound, animation, text and graphics to create the information medium for the Nineties". This was cutting edge stuff!

4. Issue 39, July 1996
The moment *MacFormat* discovered the internet. Okay, we'd had a play around on it before, but now we'd decided it was time to take it out of our high-security lab and splash it large on the cover, inviting the readers to dial-up and get online, too.

5. Issue 65, July 1998
After a few dodgy years in the doldrums, Apple bounces back with the launch of the iMac – hurrah! We're saved! Mac users around the globe breathed an audible sigh of relief, especially the Apple shareholders.

OUT 7 IN 0% TIME 7-34
15 15 2 10 3 29 5

The exclusive *Lemmings* demo was featured on issue 1's cover disk. Check out the blocky graphics!

Stuart Anderton, launch Publisher of *MacFormat*. "We published a Mac mag for pro designers and decided that the time was right to go along with Apple and launch a home user's mag, using the recently-launched *PC Format* as a template. At that time people were very bullish about Apple's chances of really challenging the IBM-compatible market. At that time Future Publishing was an entirely Mac-based company, so we were firmly on the Mac side of the 'my computer is better than yours' debate. Apple was trying to push into the home market, and despite some doubts about Apple's strategy we decided to go for it and make a magazine home users would want to read. The existing Mac magazines thought we (and Apple) were crazy."

Apple didn't beat Microsoft in the end, but a loyal band of home Mac users did emerge, and what's more it's still growing! Now in 2008, Apple is making inroads into the home user market all over again, as Microsoft finds itself on the back foot. There seems to be more support for Apple now than ever before! Back in 1993, *MacFormat* also had plenty of supporters, especially in the Mac industry. "I remember thinking, 'Great! Another magazine for us to advertise to bring us new customers, and this time aimed at the consumer rather than the professional user!'," remembers Jonathan Cole of Computer Warehouse, whose ads appeared in the very first issue of *MacFormat*. It worked, too. "Our customers at the time were the professional music industry and Apple was a very niche purchase. We used to sell a couple of Macs a month. We ran an advert in the Mac press introducing Computer Warehouse and the phone didn't stop ringing. We became Apple's largest UK dealer within 18 months."

> "Seeing the first titanium G4 PowerBooks in the flesh at their release was a genuinely jaw-dropping moment at the time"
>
> **Josse Vander-Bilson on his best moment**

The launch issue

The first edition of *MacFormat* had a distinctive cover that played fast and loose with Apple's trademarked multicoloured logo, surprisingly not entirely against Apple's wishes. "The image was as close as we could get without tripping over Apple's legendary trademark protection," remembers Stuart. "Although they were fully behind us, and helped us a lot, using their logo was no-go." ▶

MacFormat Editors: THEN AND NOW

THEN

NOW

Josse Vander-Bilson

Easter 2000 – Easter 2001

What were the memorable moments while you were Editor?

Seeing the first titanium G4 PowerBooks in the flesh at their release was a genuinely jaw-dropping moment at the time. Shaking hands with Steve Jobs (uninvited) on the floor at New York Mac Expo, getting proper stern looks from his associates, then wondering, a few minutes later, if I was only one handshake away from Bill Gates, George W Bush... went a bit shuddery and had a lie down. Also, wondering who was going to actually buy a flower-power iMac, and then realising that it was me.

What are you doing now?

Running a studio of magazine sub-editors – happily, my team works for *MacFormat* on a monthly basis.

Do you still use Apple products?

I'm writing to you from a dual-core G5 tower and hiding behind my collection of iPods.

6. Issue 69, November 1998

Remember this *MacFormat* logo? No neither do we, but we take our hat off to the cheeky borrowing of Apple's leaf motif over the 'a' of 'Mac'. We can't help thinking it makes it look like a French magazine, though. N'est-ce pas?

7. Issue 96, November 2000

Another two-year gap and another *MacFormat* logo change. We're starting to detect a pattern here. This time it coincided with the launch of the colourful new clamshell iBook range from Apple.

8. Issue 106, August 2001

This issue looked at the technology that Apple was going to build into its Macs in the future. We were right about flat-screen iMacs and ultra-slim Power Macs, but the 'PowerBooks that roll up' idea was probably a little ahead of its time…

9. Issue 144, July 2004

The introduction of the current *MacFormat* logo. The magazine still covermounted two CDs on the front at this stage, which accounts for the cover design. Once we moved to a single DVD we decided it made more sense to mount it inside the magazine.

10. Issue 200, October 2008

A defining moment in the history of *MacFormat*. We're 200 issues old and celebrating our biggest year-on-year sales increase since the good old days! The future's looking bright for Apple and *MacFormat*.

MacFormat Editors: THEN AND NOW

Rachel Spooner

Early 2002 – May 2004

What are your memories of the mag?
It was a great time for Apple – really making in-roads into the fantastic consumer position it now holds – iPods were big news, as was the anglepoise iMac G4, and the über-thin titanium notebooks. Also, OS X launched while I was Editor. And everything got very Aqua.

Favourite moment while you were Ed?
The first redesign I worked on was still trying to be a prosumer proposition – bosses were slower to recognise *MacFormat*'s natural strength as a consumer mag. My proudest time was just before I left – working with the team on the redesigned *MacFormat* – not a million miles from how it still looks today. A fantastic magazine and its recent growth and success is a massive achievement

What are you doing now?
I'm still at Future and work part-time as Internal Communications Manager.

Do you still use Apple products?
Oh yes, I've got an achingly slow Mac in my attic room which should have been pensioned off a few years ago, but I just got a beautiful iPod touch for my birthday. It's almost too perfect!

> "It was a great time for Apple – really making in-roads into the fantastic consumer position it now holds"
>
> **Rachel Spooner on her time as Editor**

Of course, the real scoop for the first issue was the four-level *Lemmings* demo on the cover floppy disk. This was in the days before the internet, so the only way for most people to get demos and shareware was through magazine cover disks. "It was a hot game at the time (probably the only Mac game anyone had heard of)," remembers Stuart. "We had a good relationship with Psygnosis through our Amiga mags, so they ran us up an exclusive level."

Best-selling Mac magazine

The first issue sold 23,440 on the newsstand – a success! *MacFormat* quickly grew to be the UK's best-selling monthly Mac magazine. Over the years the design has changed, Editors have come and gone, and as Apple's fortunes have waxed and waned, so too have the fortunes of *MacFormat*. From launch Editor, Andy Storer, onwards, the magazine has been through several pairs of hands. Some *MacFormat* Editors were stop-gap fillers, lasting for only one or two issues, but some, like Alex Summersby, lasted almost seven years! Our current Editor, Graham, has been occupying the chair for over four years now, so he's gaining on him fast. You might be surprised to learn that the vast majority of *MacFormat*'s old Editors are still to be found beavering away here at Future Publishing on new and interesting projects. Even the launch Publisher, Stuart, is back publishing *MacFormat* (although he's keen to stress he's done lots of other things since 1993, too!).

That's 200 great issues done, so let's raise our mouse and look forward to the next 200! Happy birthday, *MacFormat*! ●

READER SERVICES

Free reader ads

If there's anything that you want, be it kit or software, look no further...

FOR SALE

Macs

Software

Miscellaneous

CONTACTS

MACFORMAT READER ADVERTISEMENT FORM

100

101

Before eBay, if readers wanted to sell their older Macs, *MacFormat*'s Reader Ads page was the place.

THE iMAC: THEN AND NOW

THEN:1998

iMac G3 Bondi Blue

£999

Hardware: 233 MHz PowerPC G3 (PowerPC 750) chip, 32MB RAM, 512KB L2 cache running at 116.6MHz, 4GB hard drive, 2MB video RAM, and shipped with Mac OS 8.1.

NOW: 2008

iMac 3.06GHz 24-inch

£1,389

Hardware: 3.06GHz Intel Core Duo, 2GB RAM, 500GB hard drive, 8x double-layer SuperDrive, NVIDIA GeForce 8800GS with 512MB RAM. Ships with Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard) and *iLife '08*.

STEVE JOBS THROUGH THE AGES

It would be impossible to talk about *MacFormat* or Apple's history without mentioning Steve Jobs. One of the original three founders of Apple (with Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne), Jobs was unceremoniously booted out by the Board of Directors and new CEO John Sculley in 1985.

Things kept going well for Apple for a few years, but gradually the company floundered, due to confusing product lines and too much divergence of resources into ill-fated products like the Newton. In 1996, then Apple CEO Gil Amelio, frustrated with the slow in-house development of the new Mac OS, purchased NeXT and its NeXTSTEP operating system, bringing Steve Jobs back as an advisor. In 1997, Amelio was ousted as CEO by the Board and Jobs stepped in an interim CEO, a position he's held ever since.

The launch of the iMac in 1998 marked resurgence in the company's fortunes. Mac clones were killed off along with the much-loved-but-before-its-time, Newton. Apple was entering its second Golden Age.

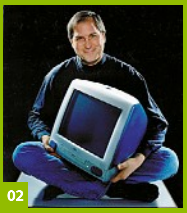
[1] In 1993 as *MacFormat* launches, a fresh-faced Steve Jobs is at NeXTWorld Expo in San Francisco, in his role as head of NeXT computers.

[2] At the launch of the iMac in 1998, we see an early appearance from the black polo neck.

[3] With the launch of OS X in 2001 we begin to see the 'classic Jobs look' take shape

[4] At Macworld 2008, a thin-looking Jobs appears and questions surface about his health.

01

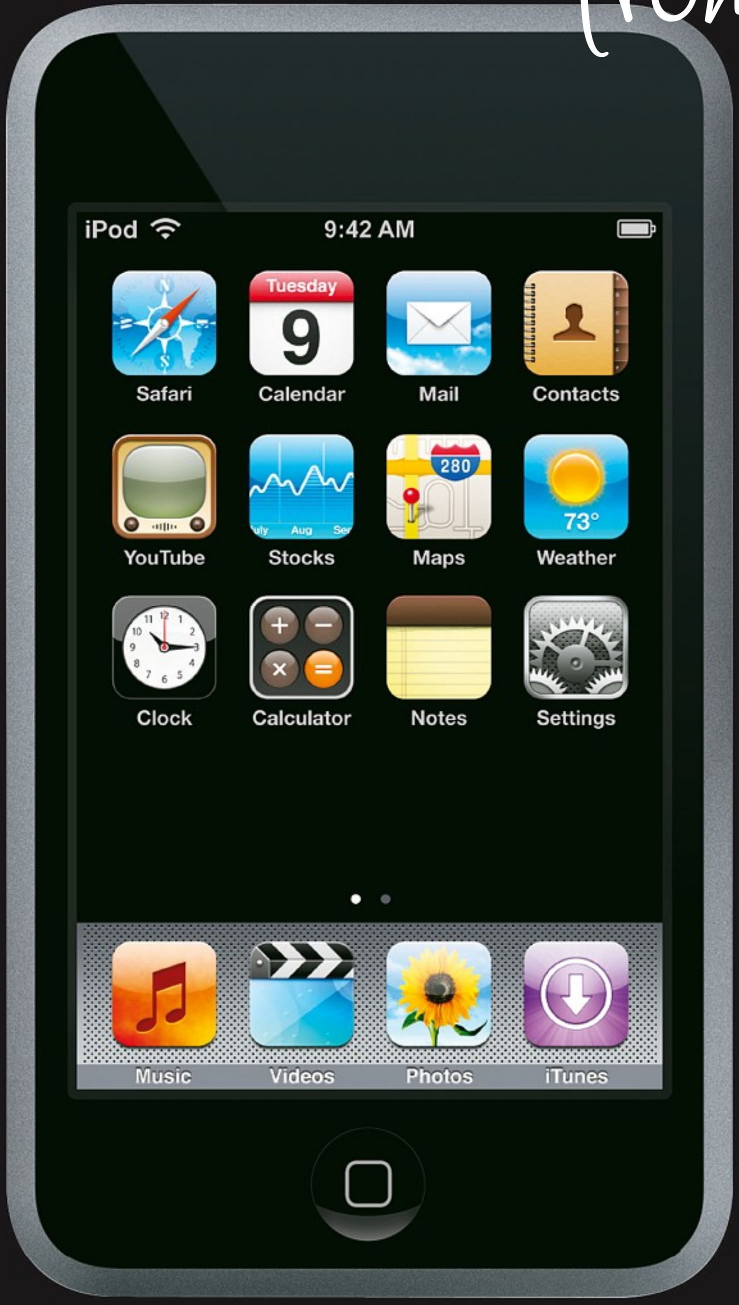

02

03

04

01 & 04 © Getty Images, 02 Courtesy of Apple, 03 © WireImage

Happy Birthday, MacFormat from Apple



To mark our bicentennial celebrations, Apple would like to wish us and all our readers a happy birthday by offering a brand new iPod touch 16GB as a prize.

For your chance to win the iPod touch, answer the following question correctly:

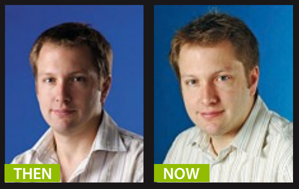
What year did the first issue of MacFormat launch?

A) 1993
B) 1995
C) 1996

HOW TO ENTER

- Either text IPOD followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on **Competition**.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
- If you do not want to receive information relating to future offers and promotions, please include the word STOP at the end of your text message.
- Texts will be charged at £1 plus your standard network tariff rate.
- Competition closes on 14 October 2008.

MacFormat Editors: THEN AND NOW



Graham Barlow

August 2004 – present

What are your memories of your time on the magazine?
Shortly after I joined the mag I found myself sitting in the audience for Steve Jobs's keynote at Apple Expo Paris, where he unveiled the new-look white iMac G5 with the integrated iSight camera. That was pretty revolutionary at the time, but the switch to Intel chips from PowerPC chips (and then even letting users install Windows on a Mac!) in 2005 was the real turning point in Apple's fortunes – from then on it was clear that Apple was serious about taking on the Windows PC again and growing its market share.

Ultimately, though, the launch of the iPhone in 2007 still stands out most in my mind as the biggest ever Apple event. The iPhone had been hyped for what felt like years beforehand, and the final frenzied build-up to the launch was fantastic. I wasn't in San Francisco to see it live due to family commitments, but I remember watching the streaming video live and being amazed that it was finally happening. Apple still manages to surprise and delight me with its products time after time.

Favourite moment while you were ed?
Cruising past *MacUser* and *Macworld*, taking *MacFormat* from third place in the market back to where it belongs as the UK's no.1 Mac magazine.

Have you always used Apple products?
Sadly not! I'm a switcher. My dad had an old Mac Classic and I've always worked in publishing, meaning Macs were always dotted around the office, but I worked on several PC mags, like *PC Answers* and *PC Format*, before switching over to the Mac. It was the best move I ever made, and I definitely haven't looked back. I currently own an iPhone, several iPods and three Macs. Is three too many?

What's next for MacFormat?
I want to keep delivering the best Mac mag possible to my readers. In addition to the regular magazine we've also got a special iPhone guide planned for release on 16 October, so look out for it in the shops then!

Words **Hollin Jones** Illustration **MagicTorch**

To celebrate 200 glorious issues of MacFormat, we've come up with 200 fantastic tips to help you get more from your Mac...

Everyone who uses a Mac will know a few tips, tricks and shortcuts of their own. Often these are related to whatever tasks you use your Mac for the most, so photographers, for example, will fly around *iPhoto*, using deft keystrokes and a thorough knowledge of the program's capabilities to work at speed. Musicians will compose effortlessly in *GarageBand*, and more or less everyone knows their way around *iTunes*.

As well as shortcuts for individual programs, there are all kinds of other tips, tricks and techniques related to *Finder* and Mac OS X itself that you only normally pick up from years of dedicated Mac use, word of mouth, recommendations from friends and from research. In addition, this experience teaches you a lot about troubleshooting common Mac problems, and also about cost effective ways to work without shelling out for high-end commercial software.

We have gathered together 200 top tips, covering all aspects of Macs and Mac use, providing you with a definitive guide, whether you're a novice or a seasoned user, to getting the most from your Mac. As well as workflow and productivity tips there's advice on security, upgrading, speeding up your Mac and prolonging its life. You'll become a master of *iLife* and OS X and discover applications to help you in your everyday Mac use. Read on to discover all that your Mac has to offer…

Mac FORMAT On the disc

Unless stated, all software mentioned is on the disc.

00
issable
ctips

Top 25 OS X tips

Your Mac is loaded with features. We show you how to unlock the power of OS X

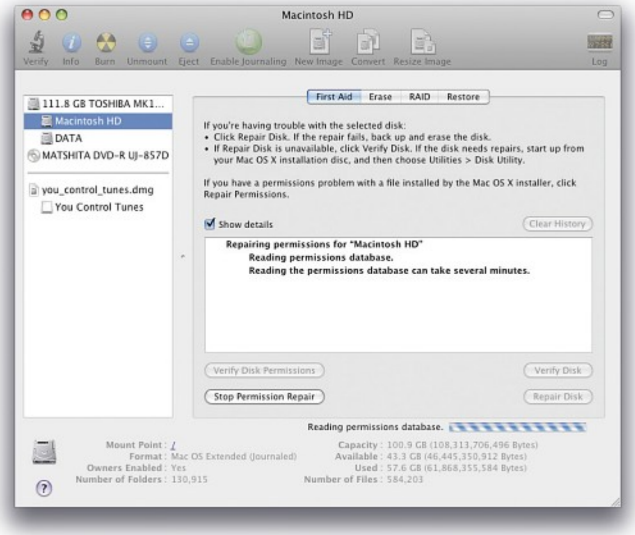
While OS X may look very different to Apple's first operating systems and the previous OS 9, there are plenty of similarities. The name of *Finder* and some basic concepts remain from those early days, but today's *Finder* is a far more capable beast than ever before and a truly remarkable feat of engineering. There are literally hundreds of features built into the system to make using the Mac easier. The result of years of development, some you may know and others you may not.

You also get a great selection of applications provided with OS X to help you manage and maintain your Mac, and there are extensive customisation options to help you personalise your working space and optimise your workflow. All of this is possible without adding anything to a standard install of Mac OS X – it's all right there already, waiting to be discovered. You don't even need to have the latest OS X 10.5 Leopard for most of these tips and tricks. You'll find they work well in OS X 10.4 Tiger, too. From small tweaks to sweeping changes, we show you how to master your Mac.

Disk Utility

Disk Utility, located in the Applications > Utilities folder, is more versatile than it at first appears. Not only does it let you run disk verification and repair, it's also able to burn CDs and DVDs and erase rewritable discs. In addition it's where you erase, rename and partition hard drives and set up RAID systems. *Disk Utility* can create byte-for-byte clones of existing drives or discs as well as creating blank disk images for you to populate with content. It's a perfect way, for example, to create backup copies of software install discs.

Disk Utility can verify, format and partition your hard drives, as well as burning CDs and DVDs.


Macintosh HD
Verify
Info
Burn
Unmount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
Log
111.8 GB TOSHIBA MK1...
Macintosh HD
DATA
MATSHITA DVD-R UJ-857D
you_control_tunes.dmg
You Control Tunes
First Aid
Erase
RAID
Restore
Clear History
Verify Disk Permissions
Verify Disk
Stop Permission Repair
Repair Disk

If you're having trouble with the selected disk:

- Click Repair Disk. If the repair fails, back up and erase the disk.
- If Repair Disk is unavailable, click Verify Disk. If the disk needs repairs, start up from your Mac OS X installation disc, and then choose Utilities > Disk Utility.

If you have a permissions problem with a file installed by the Mac OS X installer, click Repair Permissions.

☑ Show details

```
Repairing permissions for "Macintosh HD"
    Reading permissions database.
    Reading the permissions database can take several minutes.
```

Reading permissions database.

Mount Point : /
Format : Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Owners Enabled : Yes
Number of Folders : 130,915
Capacity : 100.9 GB (108,313,706,496 Bytes)
Available : 43.3 GB (46,445,350,912 Bytes)
Used : 57.6 GB (61,868,355,584 Bytes)
Number of Files : 584,203

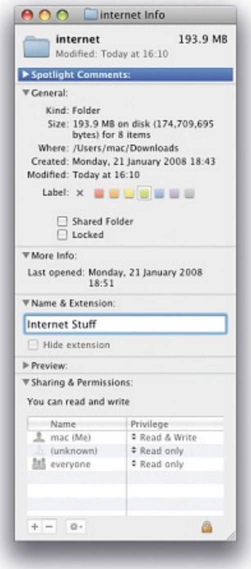
Disable automatic login

When you first set up your Mac and create an account, it assumes you are using it at home and makes you an Administrator. It also sets itself up to log you in automatically to save time. For some people this isn't suitable as the Mac may be in a public area, or contain important information that you want to keep away from prying eyes. Go to System Preferences > Accounts and choose your account. Then select **Login Options** and uncheck **Automatically log in as:**. Now when you start up you are presented with a login screen for you to enter your details, which is much more secure.

Get Info window

You can right-click on any item in OS X or select it and choose File > Get Info. You are then presented with a window showing important information about the item, such as its size, location, creation date and owner permissions. If you **Get Info** (⌘+[I]) on more than one item, two windows will open unless you hold the ⌥ key during selection, in which case a different window is shown displaying the collective properties of both items. **Get Info** windows are contextual, so with

Use the **Get Info** window to view the properties and permissions of files and folders and also label and rename them and change their icons.


internet Info
Spotlight Comments:
General:
More Info:
Name & Extension:
Preview:
Sharing & Permissions:

internet 193.9 MB
Modified: Today at 16:10

Kind: Folder
Size: 193.9 MB on disk (174,709,695 bytes) for 8 items
Where: /Users/mac/Downloads
Created: Monday, 21 January 2008 18:43
Modified: Today at 16:10
Label: ×

☐ Shared Folder
☐ Locked

Last opened: Monday, 21 January 2008 18:51

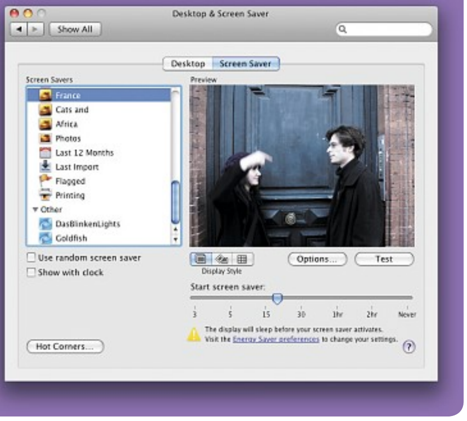
Internet Stuff
☐ Hide extension

You can read and write

Name	Privilege
mac (Me)	Read & Write
(unknown)	Read only
everyone	Read only

CUSTOMISE YOUR MAC

OS X looks great but many people like to make it their own by customising it. To do this, start by going to System Preferences > Appearance where you can alter the colour scheme of windows to an extent. Then go to **Desktop & Screen Saver**. Here you can choose any image file on your Mac to use as a backdrop, and also specify a folder of images from which to automatically choose a new picture at certain intervals. Your *iPhoto* library and Events are available here, too. If you're feeling adventurous, third-party programs will let you use screensavers as animated Desktop backgrounds, though they tend to use a lot of CPU power.


Desktop & Screen Saver
Show All
Desktop
Screen Saver
Screen Savers
Preview
France
Cats and
Africa
Photos
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Printing
Other
DasBlinkenLights
Goldfish
Display Style
Options...
Test
Start screen saver:
3
5
15
30
1hr
2hr
Never
Hot Corners...

☐ Use random screen saver
☐ Show with clock

The display will sleep before your screen saver activates.
Visit the Energy Saver preferences to change your settings.

Keyboard shortcuts

⌘ ←

⌘+Backspace: Send item to Trash.

⌘ O

⌘+[O]: Open one or more items.

⌘ 1

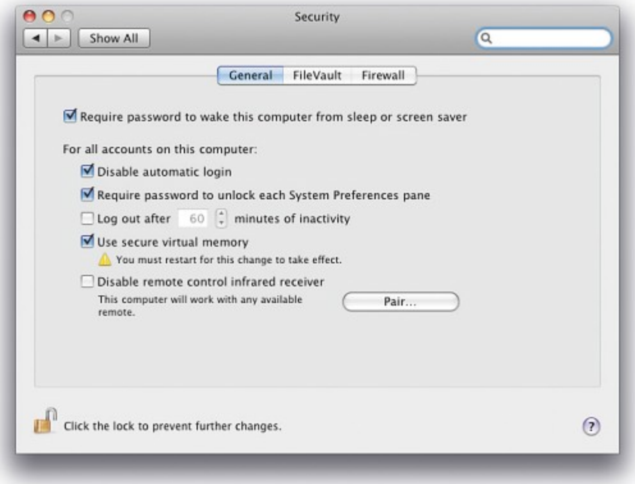
⌘+[1], [2], [3] or [4]: Toggle *Finder* window view mode.

⌘ ⇧ Q

⌘+⇧+[Q]: Log Out of your account.

⌘ ⇧ 3

⌘+⇧+[3]: Take a screen shot.



☑ Require password to wake this computer from sleep or screen saver

For all accounts on this computer:
- ☑ Disable automatic login
- ☑ Require password to unlock each System Preferences pane
- ☐ Log out after 60 minutes of inactivity
- ☑ Use secure virtual memory
  You must restart for this change to take effect.
- ☐ Disable remote control infrared receiver
  This computer will work with any available remote.

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

Use the **Security** pane in *System Preferences* to set up better security like screen locking and Master and FileVault passwords.

one open you can select further items and the window will update to show their details automatically.

Organise the Desktop

Let's face it, we all tend to drop files and folders on the Desktop for convenience and this can quickly become cluttered. If you go to View > Show View Options, you can alter the way *Finder* displays items. Controls include changing icon sizes, label positions and whether text information is displayed as part of a folder. Most importantly, you can choose to snap items to a grid, meaning they will stay equally spaced and not overlap. Also in the **View** menu you'll find a **Clean Up** command, to auto-tidy any selected items, and the option to sort selected items by criteria like name, size or date created.

Stay secure

With an increasing amount of personal information stored on our Macs, it's important to be mindful of security. In System Preferences > Security, you can beef up your protection by setting Master and FileVault passwords to encrypt your documents on-the-fly. If that's more protection than you need, consider the other options, the most useful of which is the option to lock the computer when it's put to sleep or when the screensaver is activated. Only your Administrator password will unlock it, making it great for leaving your Mac on but unattended.

Manage Dashboard widgets

Widgets can be useful but it's easy to install a lot and then forget about them, resulting in a cluttered *Dashboard* interface. To delete widgets, invoke *Dashboard*, click on the white + sign then click **Manage Widgets**. The widget manager appears, and if you uncheck a widget it is hidden from the list. If you want to actually delete it altogether, click on the red - sign by its name and it will be moved to the Trash. This also applies to any Web Clip widgets you may have created from *Safari* on Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard). Note that widgets that come with the system can't be deleted. To close an open widget, mouse over it, hold the ⌥ key and click the x symbol that appears.

Customise application toolbars

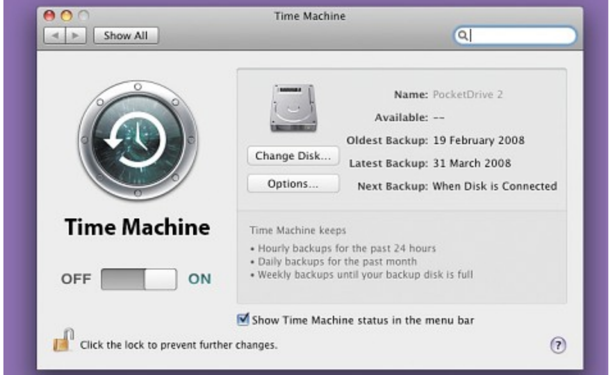
More or less every application running on OS X has a toolbar where certain key controls and buttons will live. To modify the items that appear in a given application's toolbar, right-click or [Ctrl]-click on the toolbar and choose **Customise....** You should now be able to drag existing buttons and fields out and new ones in to reflect the way you like to work. There is usually an option to restore the default set if you change your mind later. This process will only affect the application you perform it on, not any others.

Use the sidebar

Every *Finder* window in OS X has a sidebar – a panel running down the left which contains links to local and networked computers and hard drives, as well as shortcuts to your **Home** folder and its contents. To remove any locations from the lower part of the sidebar, drag them out or right-click and choose **Remove**. To add an item, drag it in. Drives can't be dragged in this way from the upper part of the window, but you can eject connected drives by clicking the arrow that appears next to them. Internal hard drives can't be ejected but they can be removed from the sidebar by right-clicking.

TIME MACHINE BACKUPS

OS X 10.5 comes with *Time Machine*, a backup program that's built into the heart of the OS. By connecting an external drive and specifying it as the backup drive, you can perform an initial backup of your whole system which will be bootable should you suffer a hard drive crash. Specific items can be excluded from the backup by choosing to ignore them in the *Time Machine* setup. The clever part is that each subsequent backup you make to the same drive will be incremental, meaning only items changed since the last backup will be copied. By invoking *Time Machine* you can also step back in time for any folder to view and access its contents at any backup point, even if it's since been deleted.



Name: PocketDrive 2
Available: --
Oldest Backup: 19 February 2008
Latest Backup: 31 March 2008
Next Backup: When Disk is Connected

Time Machine keeps
- Hourly backups for the past 24 hours
- Daily backups for the past month
- Weekly backups until your backup disk is full

☑ Show Time Machine status in the menu bar

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

Time Machine is an easy way to back up your system, then it automatically backs up changed files.

10 QUICK TIPS

Search and spell

In many applications you can highlight a word or block of text, right-click and choose **Search in Spotlight** or **Google**, or **Look Up In Dictionary** to make sure everything is correctly spelt.

Dock setup

In *System Preferences* you can choose the size, location and behaviour of the Dock, plus set it to either magnify when you scroll over it or not.

Quick find

Finder windows have a text field at the top right-hand corner. Type in it to instantly search your Mac for files or folders that you need to locate.

Quick copy

Hold the ⌥ key while dragging an item to duplicate it. Hit [esc] if you wish to cancel the copy before releasing the mouse.

Safari tabs

Drag a tab by its title bar out of *Safari* and it will be opened in a new window. You can also drag tabs around to re-order them.

Remove Preference Panes

To quickly remove third-party preference panes in *System Preferences*, right-click on them and choose **Remove**.

Automated folders

To make working with multiple folders easier, you can attach *Automator* actions to specific folders, so that any file dropped in the folder has the action applied to it automatically.

Stacks

In Mac OS X 10.5, folders can be dragged to the Dock and opened as Stacks. Their contents will be displayed as a list or in a grid so you can see what's inside without opening it.

Add-ons

Contextual menu items in 10.5, once installed, appear under the **More** section that appears when you right click on any part of the Desktop.

Network connections

OS X 10.5 spots any Macs on your local network and displays them under **Shared** in the sidebar. Connect simply by selecting one.

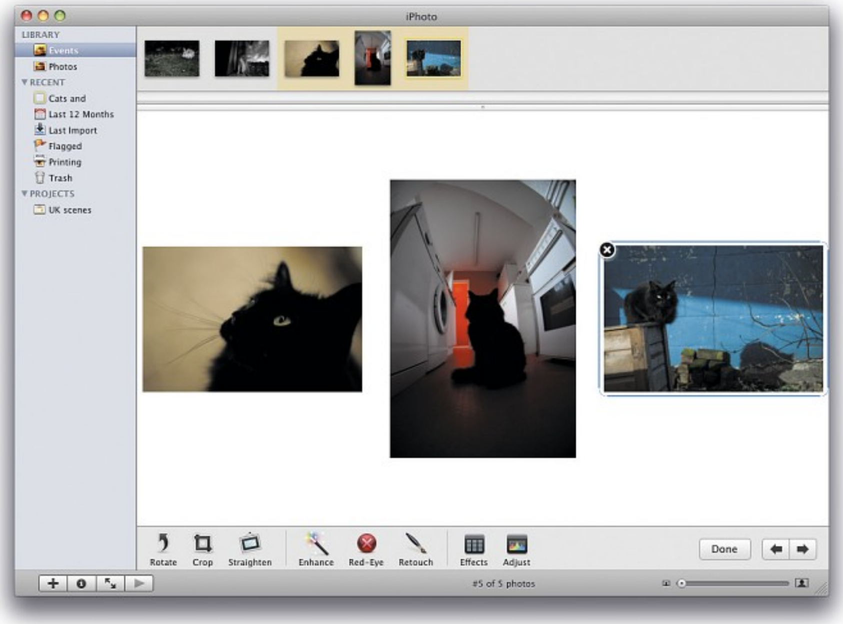
Ultimate iLife tips

We show you how to get the most out of the Apple's own creative suite…

When Apple started to bundle *iLife* with new Macs, it was clear that it intended your Mac to be the centre of your digital life. *iTunes* is the most widely used of the programs, and considered by many to be the best jukebox software. Adding FireWire as standard to Macs, Apple pioneered the home digital video revolution and gave us *iMovie* and *iDVD*, providing a solution for turning home movies into professional productions. Photographers are well catered for with *iPhoto* providing a great way to catalogue, manage and edit your digital images. For musicians, *GarageBand* has a feature-set worthy of other leading music applications, and *iWeb* lets budding web designers, bloggers and musicians upload their creations to the web. Since all these programs are made by Apple, they are beautifully integrated both with OS X and with each other and the MobileMe online service. What more could you ask for?

Multiple photo view

If you select more than one image from an *iPhoto* Event or library then enter full-screen mode, all the selected photos are displayed side by side. This makes it easier to compare photos if you need to choose one. If you select a photo while in this view, use the arrow keys to switch to the previous or next image while the others remain in place, so you can replace individual photos without having to go back and start again.



Multiple select images in *iPhoto* and hit **Edit**, and they will be displayed side by side for easy comparison.

Open multiple libraries

Both *iPhoto* and *iTunes* can use multiple libraries. Hold down ⌥ when starting either app and you get the option to create a new library or choose an existing one. This is useful for keeping different sets of data separate. For example, you may have a small local music library on your MacBook that you listen to on the road, but a much larger one on an external drive that you listen to at home. Or you might have one *iPhoto* library for personal pictures and one for work. Using the **Choose Library** option makes managing your music and pictures much easier.

Top of the list

If you have a lot of playlists in *iTunes*, it can be tiresome navigating them. If you click in the **Playlists** column and tap in the first few letters of the playlist, you will jump straight to it or to a nearby playlist starting with the same letters. If you have a playlist that doesn't start with "a" but you want it to stay at the top of the list, add a character such as a space or underscore to the beginning of its name to force *iTunes* to keep it at the top.

Keyboard shortcuts

⌘+[Tab]: Invoke the Application Switcher shortcut function.

⌘+[S]: Save the current document.

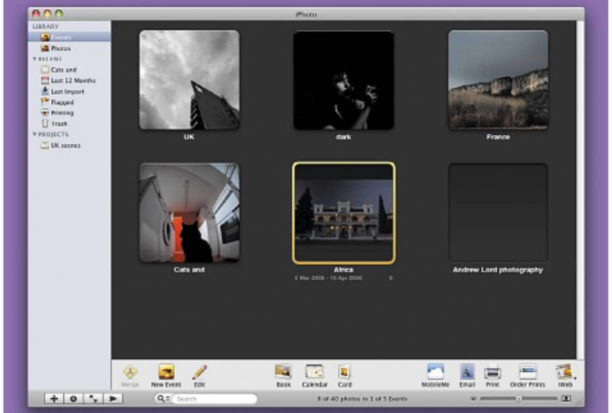
⌘+[Q]: Quit the current application.

⌘+[M]: Minimise the current window to the Dock.

⌘+[A]: Select all.

MANAGE EVENTS

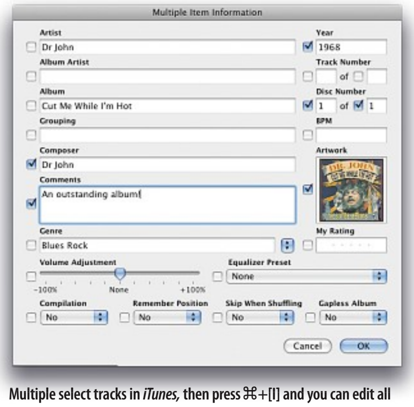
In *iPhoto*, when you create an Event, you can quickly cycle through all the photos inside by moving it across the Event's icon. If you settle on an image you like, right-click and select **Make Key Photo**, which will turn that image into the Event's icon. By selecting more than one Event you can merge them by choosing Events > Merge Events. If an Event contains images taken over several days, choose it and select Event > Autosplit to create separate Events, one for each day's pictures.



Scroll over Events in *iPhoto* to quickly cycle through all the images contained within.

Tag your music

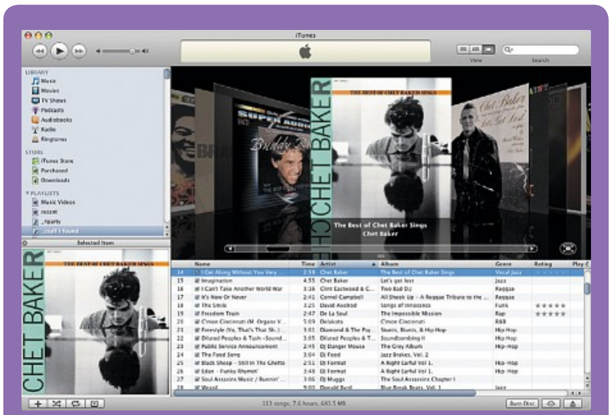
Tagging music files in *iTunes* need not be hard work. Select all the tracks in an album and press ⌘+[I]. Any tags that you add here, including album artwork, will be applied to all the files as soon as you hit **OK**. You can also drag tracks out of *iTunes* to folders on your Mac and vice versa. If *iTunes* is not set up in **Preferences** to copy added music to the *iTunes* music folder, though, you'll need to make sure you don't move the original tracks as *iTunes* won't be able to find them.



Multiple Item Information

☐ Artist: Dr John
☑ Year: 1968
☐ Album Artist:
☐ Track Number: of ☐
☐ Album: Cut Me While I'm Hot
☑ Disc Number: 1 of ☑ 1
☐ Grouping:
☐ BPM:
☑ Composer: Dr John
☑ Comments: An outstanding album
☑ Artwork
☐ Genre: Blues Rock
☐ My Rating:
☐ Volume Adjustment: None
☐ Equalizer Preset: None
☐ Compilation: No
☐ Remember Position: No
☐ Skip When Shuffling: No
☐ Gapless Album: No

Multiple select tracks in *iTunes,* then press ⌘+[I] and you can edit all their tags at once, saving you quite a bit of time.



VISUAL JUKEBOX

There's a way to use *iTunes* as a visual as well as musical jukebox. Go to a playlist or your main library and switch to **Cover Flow** view. Now press the **Full Screen** button in the **Cover Flow** window and hit the [Spacebar] to play. *iTunes* will take over the whole display and show the cover art for the current track, changing the art when a track from a new album starts. To make this feature work as well as possible, for any albums without artwork, use the Advanced > Get Album Artwork command.

Compare and contrast

When editing an image in *iPhoto*, it makes sense to have it in full-screen mode as this removes any other visual distractions and helps you to understand the changes you're making. If you have made edits, when in **Edit** mode you can hold down the ⇧ key and *iPhoto* will show you the original image, so you can see how different your edited image now looks. This is possible because *iPhoto* works non-destructively, and as soon as you start to edit, it creates a duplicate and saves the original. In both the **Library** or **Event** view you can right-click and choose **Show Original File** to get to the unedited version.

Multiple image edit

When viewing multiple selected images in *iPhoto*, if you open the **Adjust** or **Effects** control panels, they are contextual and will change to reflect whichever image is currently selected. This makes it easy to edit images relative to one another, as they are all on screen at the same time. The **Adjust** window has a copy and paste facility so if you get an image just right, you can apply its settings to the next picture instantly. Some effects have settings, like the **Fade Colour** effect, which will change in intensity as you click on it.

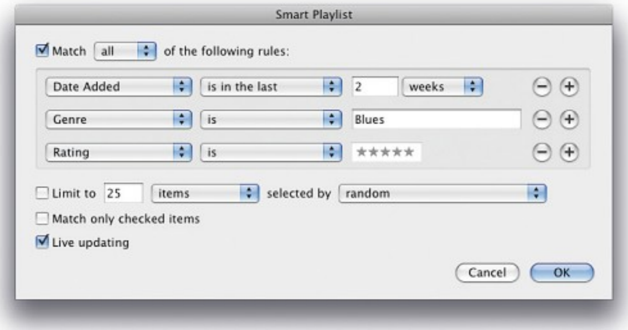
Smart playlists

Smart Playlists in *iTunes* are a great way to sort music according to your specific needs. Create a new Smart Playlist from the **File** menu and you can set up filters which will include only tracks that meet the criteria. So, for example, a playlist set up to display only tracks added in the last two weeks will quickly show all your recently-added tunes. Click **Live Updating** and it stays current, meaning after two weeks, older tracks will no longer show up. Set up a playlist to show top-rated tracks by a specific artist and you'll only hear your five star rated tracks. The possibilities are endless.

iTunes sharing

iTunes lets you share your library on a local network to anyone else also running *iTunes*. Go to Preferences > Sharing and turn on sharing. You can specify certain playlists or the whole library, and also password-protect the share, if you like, so you can choose who can access the list. It also works with videos, so it's a great way to have a central Mac with lots of storage hosting all your music and movies, but let others access it without having to copy any files. Even if it's in your home, it works over AirPort so you can use your main Mac as a music and movie server.

Set up Smart Playlists to keep a continually updated list of tracks based on criteria like top-rated tracks added in the last two weeks.



Smart Playlist

☑ Match all of the following rules:

Date Added | is in the last | 2 | weeks
Genre | is | Blues
Rating | is | ★★★★★

☐ Limit to 25 items selected by random
☐ Match only checked items
☑ Live updating

10 QUICK TIPS

Deleting tracks

To permanently delete tracks from your *iTunes* application, you have to remove them from the main library, not just from a playlist. All tracks in all playlists are stored in the main library, too.

Web Gallery

Upload sets of images straight to MobileMe using the MobileMe button in *iPhoto*. Choose options like privacy and download permissions so only people can view them with your permission.

Back up

Create backups of your music in *iTunes* using the File > Back Up To Disc command. You can choose to include only files added since the last backup.

Key words

Select Window > Show Keywords in *iPhoto* to manage and add tags. Then apply these to images for quicker and easier searching and grouping of files.

Show duplicates

In your *iTunes* library, choose View > Show Duplicates to see any tracks which exist more than once and could be deleted.

Print options

Select several images in *iPhoto* and choose **Print**. You can add special borders, backgrounds and image layouts by clicking the **Customize** button.

Drag and drop

In **Cover Flow** view in *iTunes*, you can drag a track to the Desktop by picking it up and dragging it by its artwork as well as its actual music file.

Order online

Using the **Book**, **Calendar** and **Cards** buttons in *iPhoto* you can create customised products with your pictures, transmit them for manufacture and pay online.

Column setup

For any playlist in *iTunes*, choose View > View Options… and choose which of the 35 possible attributes, like bit rate, release year, genre, last played or star rating are displayed.

Export a movie

In *iPhoto's* **Export** options you can choose to export a slideshow movie of your images, complete with music. You can choose to then email it or upload it to your MobileMe account.

10 QUICK TIPS

Magic iDVD

Use *iDVD's* **Magic iDVD** feature for an extremely simple drag-and-drop way to assemble a DVD from your music, movie and photo libraries.

Musical features

GarageBand has both a metronome for keeping time and a guitar and bass tuner built in, so you can add real professional touches to your composition.

Video blogging

iMovie can use the iSight that's built into your Mac laptop or iMac to record video and sound – it's perfect for creating video blogs.

Music automation

Use automation features in *GarageBand* to change volume, pan and effect levels over time for more professional results.

Web widgets

Quickly embed external live HTML content like videos from YouTube or photo streams onto your own *iWeb* pages using the great **Web Widgets** feature within the application.

One step DVD

Use *iDVD's* **One Step DVD** feature to connect a camera and have your movie burned directly from tape to a DVD with no fuss whatsoever.

Add titles

Add titles and transitions to your movie projects and set up their behaviour in the File > Project Properties menu.

TV Safe

When making a DVD of your home movie, check that everything on the DVD will be viewable on a normal TV by choosing View > TV Safe Area. You can send your DVD to people who don't have a computer.

Voiceover

Use the microphone built into your iMac or portable Mac to record voiceover for podcasts or movies in *GarageBand* or *iMovie*.

Ken Burns

When placing still images in projects in *iMovie*, try using the **Ken Burns** effect which will generate more interest by adding movement. It's good fun experimenting with the effects.

More iLife tips!

We have even more great tips for Apple's creative suite

Virtual keyboards

GarageBand provides ways to play its included virtual instruments, even if you don't have a MIDI keyboard connected. Go to Window > Virtual Keyboard to show a floating keyboard which you can scale up and down by several octaves. Or, select the **Musical Typing** input window to turn your Mac's keyboard into a way to play notes. Use either method to record MIDI notes onto instrument tracks. If you do have a MIDI keyboard attached, you'll find it much easier to play realistic-sounding keyboard parts.

Burning DVDs

iDVD lets you drag and drop your movies into a slick interface to create professional DVDs. To speed up your workflow, choose Advanced > Encode in Background. This will render video files to the correct format in the background as you work, so when it comes time to burn much of the rendering work is already done. To avoid wasting DVDs, always test projects thoroughly using the **Preview** button and also by saving as a disc image or Video_TS folder for testing prior to burning.

Adjust video settings

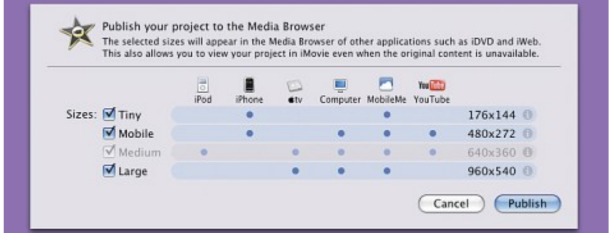
If you move the mouse over a movie clip in *iMovie's* timeline area or project bin, you can scrub along and play it back. Clips in the timeline will display three tiny boxes; click on them to alter visual, audio and crop settings for a clip. The **Video Adjustment** window lets you make *iPhoto*-style colour, brightness and contrast adjustments, helping you to make digital video look more like film. If a clip's audio is quiet, use the audio window's **Normalize** button to raise its volume.

Become a composer

Use *GarageBand* to compose your own music over your movies. Instead of using someone else's tracks, import your finished

EXPORT YOUR MOVIES

iMovie '08 can export finished movies to different destinations from the **Share** menu, including YouTube and your MobileMe online gallery. It can also export full-quality movies to hard disk, and if you choose to share to the Media Browser, it's possible to render out versions for multiple devices – iPod, iPhone, Apple TV, the Mac and the web – all at once. Once copies of the movie are in this Media Browser, they are available to import directly into other *iLife* programs such as *GarageBand* and *iDVD*.

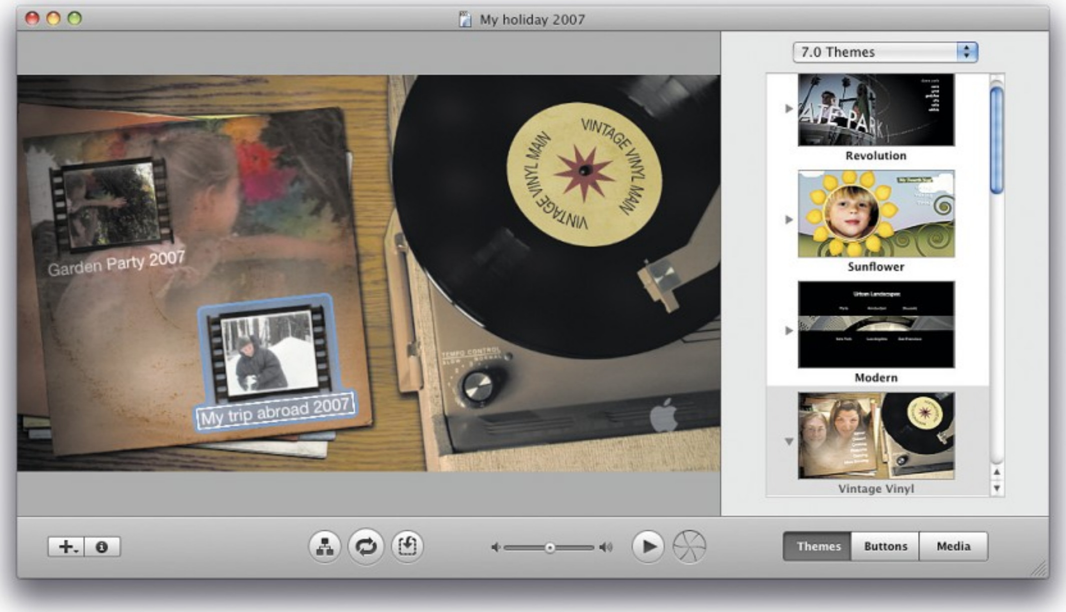


Publish your project to the Media Browser

The selected sizes will appear in the Media Browser of other applications such as iDVD and iWeb. This also allows you to view your project in iMovie even when the original content is unavailable.

Sizes:	iPod	iPhone	tv	Computer	MobileMe	YouTube	
☑ Tiny		●			●		176x144
☑ Mobile		●		●	●	●	480x272
☑ Medium	●		●	●	●	●	640x360
☑ Large			●	●	●		960x540

Once you have completed your movie, you can upload it to YouTube, MobileMe or to your iPod.



iDVD has built-in themes to get you started and is also able to encode video in the background to help your workflow.

movie by adding a **Movie** track to a *GarageBand* project. Then, compose and mix the music and select Share > Export Movie to Disk. *GarageBand* can also send music straight to *iTunes* and tracks as podcasts to *iWeb,* as well as converting tracks to ringtones for your iPhone. It can even send a finished project to *iDVD* for burning to disc.

Publish your website

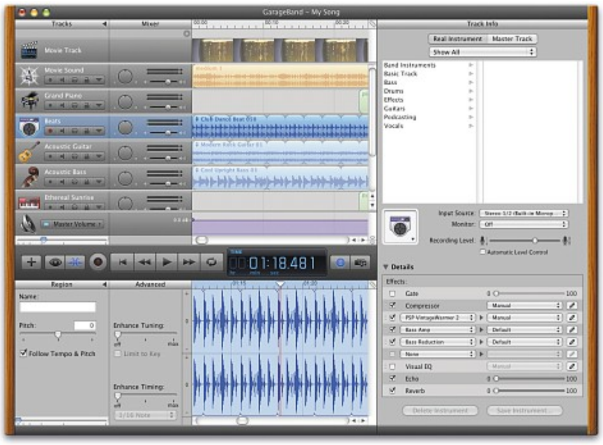
iWeb is set up to publish your websites, blogs or podcast sites directly to your MobileMe site, complete with Google *adSense* should you wish to make you a bit of money back if your site is popular. However, even if you don't have a MobileMe account, you can choose File > Publish to a Folder and *iWeb* will export the site and its dependent files to the hard drive. You can then use a third-party FTP application such as *Cyberduck* to upload the site to your own domain.

iMovie 6 HD

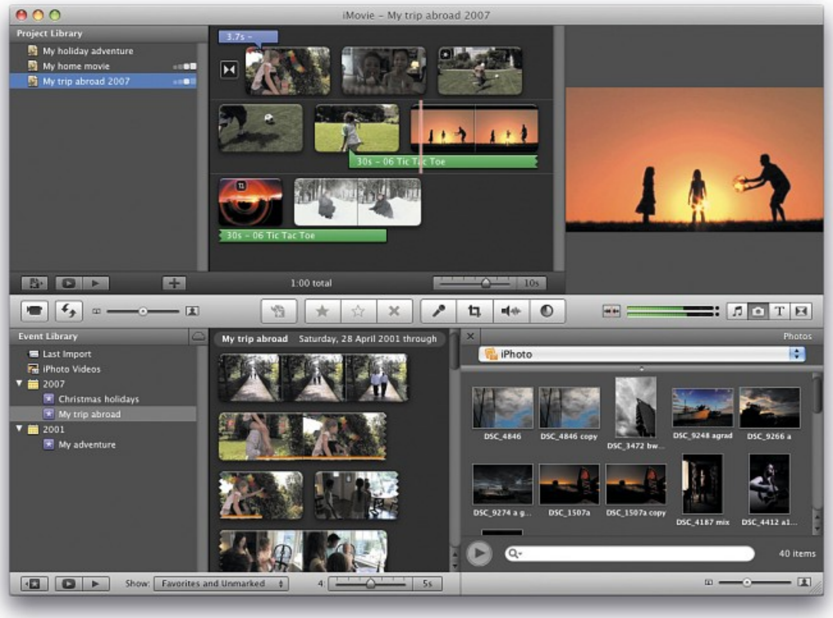
iMovie 6 HD is available as a free download from Apple's website for people who have Macs not powerful enough to run *iMovie '08*, or who simply prefer the odler version's more conventional approach. Although it lacks some features of its newer sibling, *iMovie 6 HD* also has some distinct advantages over it. Namely, a separate audio track and video effects, which are central to the way many people use *iMovie*. Both programs can coexist on the same Mac, though there's no backwards compatibility for project files.

Making music

GarageBand comes with a great selection of Apple Loops to get you started making music. These can be filtered by instrument and style and then dragged and dropped into a project to add great beats, basslines or synths. Best of all, they will automatically time-stretch to fit whatever tempo you are working at. You can also add real instrument tracks and record audio in – say, vocals or guitars, over the track beds you have created from loops. Mix and match loops, virtual instruments and real recorded tracks to create great music.



GarageBand can import movies to a Movie track within the app so you can compose a soundtrack directly to picture.



iMovie '08 can access your photo and music libraries, enabling you to easily drag and drop pictures and tunes into your movie projects.

Keyboard shortcuts

⌘ ⌥ A

⌘+⌥+[A] in *iDVD*: Toggle normal and widescreen modes.

⌘ ⌥ N

⌘+⌥+[N] in *GarageBand*: Add a new track to the application.

⌘ 1

⌘+[1], [2], [3], [4] in *iMovie '08*: Toggle between music, photo, title and transition libraries.

⌘ K

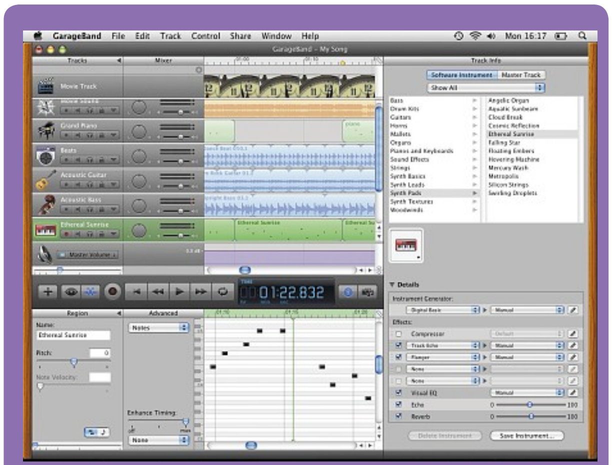
⌘+[K] in *GarageBand*: Show virtual keyboard to use on your track.

⌘ G

⌘+[G] in *iMovie '08*: Play your *iMovie* project in full-screen mode.

Share your media

As all the *iLife* apps integrate so well with each other and other apps on your Mac, *iMovie '08* can directly access your *iPhoto* and *iTunes* libraries so you can drop music and images straight into your movie projects. You can also access exported *GarageBand* tracks and *iMovie's* sound effects library. It can even see your *Aperture* and *Photo Booth* libraries and albums as well, so any images or music on your system should be accessible. There's even a search bar in both browsers so you can zap straight to the file you want.



AUDIO EFFECTS

GarageBand is supplied with a great set of audio effects for making your music tracks or podcasts more interesting and professional-sounding. In the **Track Info** section, expand the **Details** arrow to reveal the section where you can choose the type of instrument you're using and also the audio effects inserted on the track. Choose effect types and presets from the drop-down menus, or click on the small edit button by each effect to open its main window. Here you can make precise settings like EQ, delay time, compression ratio and many others.

Speed up your Mac

We show you how to squeeze maximum performance from your Mac…

Computing power has increased massively over recent years, and for Mac users the switch to Intel processors brought new heights of speed and performance to even the most entry-level Macs. Thanks to the longevity of the average Mac, there are many thousands of older PowerPC machines still in use, dutifully chugging away day after day. And even for newer Macs, applications like working with images, music and video always run more smoothly with more power under the hood.

Upgrading the processor, although technically possible on some newer models and with more difficulty on older Macs, tends to be expensive and complicated. The good news is that other parts of your Mac can be upgraded, and components tend to be cheap and user-accessible. In addition, there are simple steps that you can take in order to optimise your system for better performance. Sometimes this involves a little spring cleaning, other times a combination of hardware and software upgrading. Whichever you choose, it's easier than you think to speed up your Mac. You could even feel like you've got a brand new machine.

Clear the clutter

OS X requires around 20% of the space on its boot drive, typically called **Macintosh HD**, to be empty so that it can write virtual memory and other temporary files to the space. If a boot drive is very full, your Mac will slow down badly, even if it is a high spec machine, as the system thrashes the drive, overwriting what little free space is available. A good working practice is to keep very large media files like video, image libraries or *iTunes* libraries either on a secondary internal drive in the case of a tower, or on a laptop or iMac, on an external FireWire or USB 2.0 hard drive.

Keyboard shortcuts

⌘ F1

⌥+[F1] on a laptop: Open Displays option in *System Preferences.*

⌘ N

⌘+[N]: Open new *Finder* window.

⌘ ↖

⌘+ mouse click: Select any non-continuous items.

⌘ H

⌘+[H]: Hides your current application.

⌘ ⌥ A

⌘+⌥+[A]: Go straight to the Applications folder.

A faster hard drive, more RAM and a spring clean of your apps will give your Mac a new lease of life.

Use faster drives

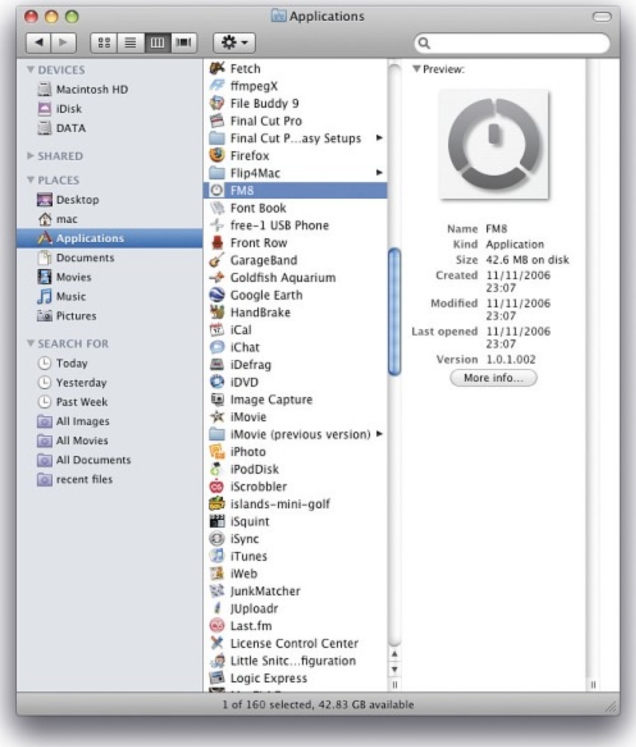
Portable Macs come with 5,400rpm hard drives and towers with 7,200rpm drives as standard. Faster spin speeds generally mean faster operation since data can be retrieved from the drive in less time. On a tower like a G5 or Mac Pro, replacing the startup drive with a faster model like a 10,000 or even 15,000rpm drive will have a positive effect on overall performance and should make the system snappier. Using faster secondary internal drives is good but more important for heavy applications like working with video. Fitting a 7,200rpm drive to a portable Mac will also yield better overall performance at relatively low cost.

Add more ports

If you find yourself running out of ports, invest in a USB 2.0 or FireWire hub to expand the number available. Make it a powered one and it will supply current to compatible devices as well. On all but tower Macs and MacBook Pros, there's no getting around the bandwidth problem – even with a hub, you're throttled by the bandwidth available on the internal bus. On a Mac with PCI or

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Computer technology advances quickly, but so do the minimum system requirements of software. A seven-year-old G4 is unlikely to be an ideal Mac to edit HD video on, for example. But older Macs are far from worthless and can be used as servers, internet and email machines, or even for hosting wireless shared *iTunes* libraries. Pick up a cheap older Mac, fill it with RAM and big internal or external drives and a wireless card and administer it using Apple's *Remote Desktop* (£349, **http://store.apple.com/uk**). All this can be done quite cheaply.


Applications
DEVICES
Macintosh HD
iDisk
DATA
SHARED
PLACES
Desktop
mac
Applications
Documents
Movies
Music
Pictures
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
All Images
All Movies
All Documents
recent files
Fetch
ffmpegX
File Buddy 9
Final Cut Pro
Final Cut P...asy Setups
Firefox
Flip4Mac
FM8
Font Book
free-1 USB Phone
Front Row
GarageBand
Goldfish Aquarium
Google Earth
HandBrake
iCal
iChat
iDefrag
iDVD
Image Capture
iMovie
iMovie (previous version)
iPhoto
iPodDisk
iScrobbler
islands-mini-golf
iSquint
iSync
iTunes
iWeb
JunkMatcher
JUploadr
Last.fm
License Control Center
Little Snitc...figuration
Logic Express
Preview:
More info...

Name FM8
Kind Application
Size 42.6 MB on disk
Created 11/11/2006 23:07
Modified 11/11/2006 23:07
Last opened 11/11/2006 23:07
Version 1.0.1.002

1 of 160 selected, 42.83 GB available

Having lots of programs installed can slow things down. Use *AppZapper* or a similar app to remove those you don't use.

PCMCIA capability, you can add a card internally with more ports, which provides a signal path directly to the motherboard and so gets around the bandwidth issue.

Upgrade your RAM

RAM is one of the most fundamental things affecting the performance of a computer. OS X really needs about 1GB of memory to itself to run smoothly, and the more RAM you have, the better. Use the **About This Mac** menu to see how much is installed, and the *System Profiler* to see exactly how many sticks are present. About 2GB is healthy for a normal system, and for heavy work with *Photoshop, Final Cut* or *GarageBand* you'll need more than that. Different Mac models have differing RAM capacities, with older Macs able to hold less, especially laptops.

Manage startup items

Some applications, on being installed, place stub or helper programs in your startup items without making it clear that they are doing so. Sometimes this is desirable, say if you always want *iChat* to open when you log in. But others, typically scanner- or printer-related applications, aren't always needed and can slow down the login process and hog CPU cycles unnecessarily. Go to System Preferences > Accounts > Login items. Delete any you don't need. This rarely causes problems – if it does, put it back on the list.

Run only what you need

Running applications uses resources including CPU cycles, RAM and disk activity. If you're not using an application, quit it while you run others. Leaving programs open when they're not needed is a resource hog and, especially on older Macs, will slow you down. Some programs can have problems with "memory leakage", meaning when loaded but idle, over time they will consume more and more RAM, eventually slowing you down. Use *Activity Monitor* located in the **Utilities** folder to see what resources each program is using.

Stay lean and mean

Keep a handle on what you install. Installing tons of programs and forgetting about them results not only in clutter and wasted space, but can also slow you down. Many programs place library files and startup items into the system, some of which must be loaded on startup whether you use the program or not. Many come with an uninstaller, or you can use *AppZapper* to completely remove them. Over time, systems invariably get cluttered so if you are confident in your skills, periodically backing up and reinstalling OS X from scratch will keep it lean and mean.

Stay up to date

Each new version of OS X is faster than the last, and each point update – say from 10.5.3 to 10.5.4 – tends to improve speed and stability. The same goes for applications, so your software and drivers up to date using *Software Update* and the websites for non-Apple programs. Many apps have a **check for updates** option. Look at the minimum specs for your version of OS X. If your Mac is barely qualified to run 10.5, you'll have a smoother experience sticking with 10.4.11.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 62

INSTALL MORE MEMORY

Having bought more RAM for your Mac, checking first that it is the correct type for your model, power down and disconnect all cables, especially the mains power. Touch a metal part of the casing to earth yourself. Open the Mac's RAM slot, the location of which will differ depending on the model, and carefully but firmly press the modules into place. On G5s and Intel Macs, RAM sticks must be installed in pairs. Close up, reconnect the power and check *System Profiler* to see if it's working. If your Mac won't start up, check the modules are properly fitted.

10 QUICK TIPS

Processor performance

On some older G4 and G5 systems, you can set the processor performance to **Highest** in System Preferences > Energy Saver. **Automatic** switches between the **Highest** and **Reduced** settings to optimise energy use.

Stripped down

A Mac with fewer or even no peripherals connected over USB or FireWire will run a little quicker than the same Mac with loads of printers and webcams plugged in.

Out and about

When running a laptop off its battery, switching off AirPort and Bluetooth will save power if you're not using them.

Multiple accounts

Try having one user account for things like games and internet, and another that's more fine-tuned and tweaked for heavier work.

Graphics card

On a tower Mac, even though you can't always remove the standard graphics card, you can add a new, faster one in a PCI slot and use that instead.

Backup schedule

Set your backup schedule so it doesn't start to grind away in the middle of your work. A Mac is designed to stay on, so you can set it for the middle of thie night.

Disk doctor

Perform a disk repair and use something like *OnyX* to regularly clear out caches, log files and temporary items to keep the system lean.

Static wallpaper

Using animated Desktop backgrounds look great but they use up a lot of system resources unnecessarily, so avoid it if possible. A simple, static photo of a landscape or your family is just as pleasurable.

FireWire is faster

Despite theory seeming to suggest otherwise, FireWire is actually faster in practice than USB 2.0 for intensive applications like audio or video capture. Give it a try for yourself.

Stay organised

Believe it or not, folders with thousands of items in them take a lot longer to work with, as the Mac tries to calculate the sizes of the whole folder. Practise good file management.

Digital Camera
Photographer of the Year 2008

Win £15,000!

Are you a keen photographer? Then you can't afford to miss Digital Camera magazine's Photographer of the Year 2008 competition, with a top prize of £15,000!

There are ten categories to enter, with a wide range of categories – from Portraits to Black & White to Hidden Britain. What are you waiting for? Get your pics in today!

Chantal Martinelli, Apple Centre NY - 2nd place - Architecture category 2007

Check out the competition and enter your own pics at...

www.photographeroftheyear2008.com

Sponsored by
Canon
Adobe

In association with
skyARTS Channel 267
The Royal Photographic Society

Official partner
JESSOPS
YOUR PICTURES. OUR PASSION.

Thanks, in part, to fantastic entry-level digital SLR cameras such as the Canon EOS 1000D that we review on p95, more photographers than ever are taking advantage of RAW. It's what pro and semi-pro cameras can save their pictures as, rather than JPEG, and it gives much more flexibility for processing the image to suit your tastes.

Even though *Photoshop Elements* does a stellar job of editing RAW files, it can be a daunting process if you're just used to punching up a JPEG's contrast using the **Levels** control. And that's why I'm delighted that long-time contributer Mark Sparrow has produced a handy guide to editing RAW files on page 38; switch your camera to RAW if it supports it and get snapping!

There's plenty more in this issue's tutorial section, too, including a masterclass in organising your photos, adding titles in *iMovie*, and turning Wikipedia articles into audio for your iPod.

Editing RAW in *Elements* **p38**

Organising your photos **p40**

Wikipedia on your iPod **p58**

In this issue…

CREATIVE

Fine-tune a RAW image 38

APPLE

Organise your photos 40
Add and edit titles in iMovie 42

SYSTEM

Keep your machine lean 44
Get organised with your Mac 46
Set up multiple displays 51

DISC

Run Windows in a window! 56
Listen to Wikipedia articles 58

How to…

MacFormat brings you all the tips, tricks and tutorials you need to get the most from your Apple products

Next issue

As ever, there's no enough room to fit everything in that we want to. Next issue we'll show you how to use WDS to extend your wireless network, how to use *iPhoto*'s advanced features to view, compare and select the best pictures in your collection, and we'll master the Ken Burns effect in *iMovie*. And that's just for starters. So look out for issue 201 on 15 October!

Extending your WiFi network

Pick the best pics in *iPhoto*

Master the **Ken Burns** effect

Did you know?

You can put just your Mac's screen to sleep

On modern Macs, you can simply tap [Ctrl]+⇧+[Eject] to make the attached displays go to sleep. This is different to sleeping the whole system; your Mac is still on and running, it's just that the display itself has gone off. This is not only a great way to save electicity – displays are real energy-hogs – but it's also handy if you want to leave a Mac in, say, a living room or bedroom on to download a large file without distracting you with its bright screen. ●

RAW images capture more detail but can be dark. These two photos look similar but notice that after our edits the buildings are much brighter.

Fine-tune a RAW image

Shoot your photos in RAW format and easily fine-tune them in Photoshop Elements afterwards

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Adobe *Photoshop Elements* (£58, **www.adobe.com/uk**)
- 20 minutes of time
- Some RAW image files from your camera

Shooting in RAW mode with a digital SLR camera is becoming increasingly popular as more cameras have this facility built in. RAW files are untouched by the camera's processing circuitry and contain the unsullied data caught by the camera. There's no exposure adjustments, sharpening or colour balancing added. RAW images will contain a lot of detail and the format is remarkably resilient, holding onto highlight and shadow details far better than a JPEG image. The downside of this is that RAW images can look a bit dull and uninspiring until you've worked on them using Adobe *Photoshop Elements*.

> "RAW images contain a lot of detail and are resilient, holding onto highlight and shadow better than JPEGs"

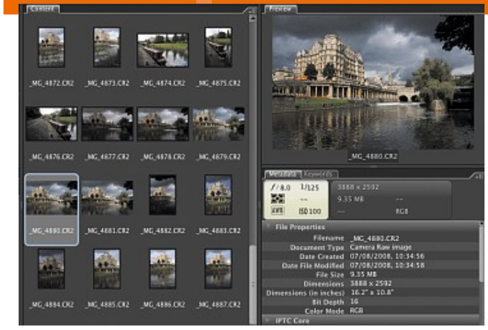
In this tutorial we're going to show you the basics of opening up a file with Adobe *Camera Raw* (included with *CS3* and *Elements 6*), making a few essential adjustments and then finishing off the editing process with *Photoshop*. It's not difficult and once you're familiar with the process you'll probably never go back to shooting in JPEG mode again.

Photoshop Elements 6 also comes with a great browsing program called the *Bridge*. You can use this to preview RAW images and then transfer the shot to *Photoshop Elements* for a little bit of tweaking. It really is very simple once you know the basics.

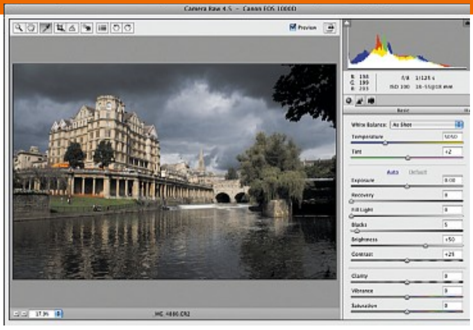
To make sure your camera is set up to shoot in RAW mode, delve into the camera's menu and turn the image quality setting from JPEG into RAW. Do remember, though, that RAW files are much larger than JPEGs, so you'll need a larger memory card or a couple of spares to get you through a day's shooting. Let's get started!

Mark Sparrow

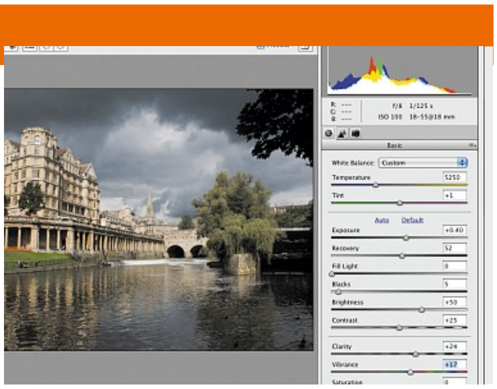
STEP BY STEP Brighten up a dull-looking RAW image



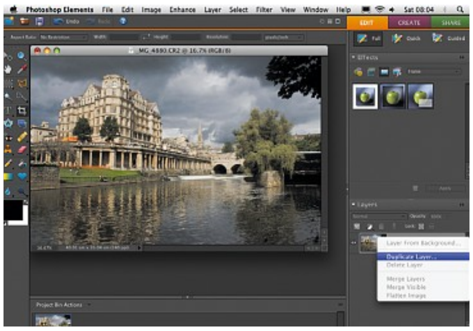
01 Transfer your RAW files from your camera's memory card to your Mac. Now launch *Photoshop Elements* and go to File > Browse with Bridge and you'll see this window appear. Navigate your way to the folder containing your RAW files and then set about choosing the shot you want to open.



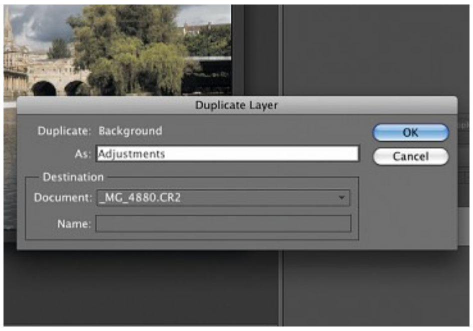
02 Here's what you'll see once you've double-clicked on your chosen RAW file. There's a row of tools at the top of the window and on the right-hand side there's a window with a series of sliders to help you get the most visual detail from your RAW file.



03 Use the **Eyedropper** in the toolbar to click on a neutral area to set the correct white balance. The **Exposure** slider will help you get a nice histogram like the one shown here. The **Recovery** slider preserves highlights while **Fill Light** lightens shadows. **Clarity** sharpens things up and **Vibrance** boosts colours without affecting skin tones.

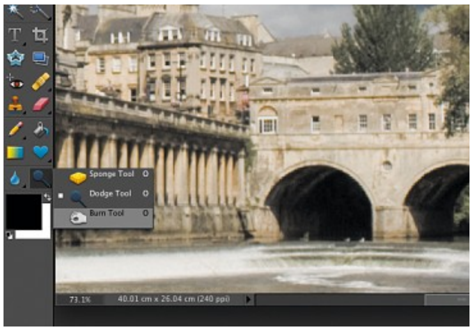


04 When you're happy with how your picture looks (don't be afraid to experiment with those sliders) click on the **Open Image** button to transfer your photo from Adobe *Camera RAW* to *Photoshop Elements*. After a few moments you'll see your shot come up like this. Now we can finish the edit.

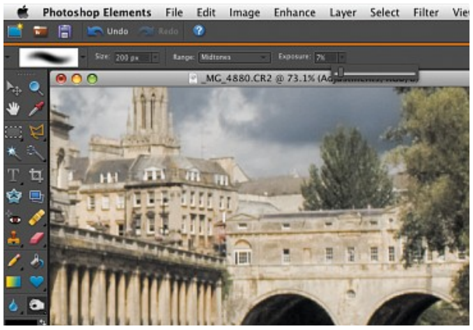


Duplicate Layer
Duplicate: Background
As: Adjustments
Destination
Document: _MG_4880.CR2
Name:

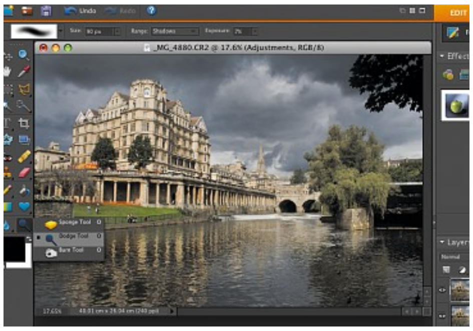
05 The first thing you should always do is to create a duplicate layer. [Ctrl]-click on the thumbnail of the image in the **Layers** palette and choose **Duplicate Layer**. This is good insurance so that if you make mistakes you can always go back to the untouched original layer beneath.



06 Zoom in on to a lighter part of your image and you'll see that the RAW conversion should have left plenty of detail. Choose the **Burn** tool from the tool palette and change the **Range:** to **Highlights** and set the **Exposure:** to about 7% and then darken any bits that need toning down.

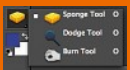


07 Use the **Burn** tools on the parts of the image that need to be darkened. Use the **Dodge** tool to lighten areas that need lifting or to have a bit more sparkle, especially in the highlights. We used the **Burn** tool here to add extra drama to the clouds in this shot.



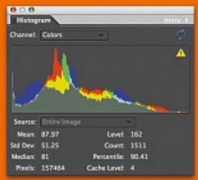
08 When you've finished dodging and burning, use the **Sponge** tool to pump up the colour in any areas that you feel need to be boosted a little. We dodged the ripples in the water and then used the sponge to add more colour. Lastly, sharpen your shot using the **Auto Sharpen** command. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



You can set the Sponge tool to Saturate or Desaturate. It's great for pumping up or reducing colour in local areas of your image. If the whole image needs work, use *Photoshop* itself.

EXPERT TIP



Learn to interpret exposure histograms both on your camera and in *Photoshop*. Learning what the histogram of a properly- exposed shot should look like will help you a lot.

Organise your photos

iPhoto 7's advanced tools make finding your archived photos easy

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- G4 processor
- Apple *iPhoto 7* (£55, part of *iLife '08*, http://store.apple.com/uk)
- Lots of images

When you first bought a digital camera and you had 100 photos in *iPhoto*, the task of organising seemed unnecessary. You just scrolled through a few screens of thumbnails. But when that number has grown to thousands of images, those screens and screens of thumbnails just frustrate you. Simple organisation with albums and Events is very useful, but *iPhoto* offers many advanced methods that turn the major chore of finding that one photo out of 10,000 into an easy task.

Three very useful tools are Smart Albums, keywords and flagging. Smart Albums automatically add content based on details like title, date and EXIF data your camera records with each shot.

Keywords take more effort. These are common tags you add to each image. Think of it as a shorthand for comments. Typing a keyword in the **Search** box and *iPhoto* will return only those images that have the keyword.

Another feature is flagging, which is useful as a temporary sorting option. For instance, you'd like to create an *iPhoto* card for someone's birthday or for your Christmas card. As you browse your images, you flag them and they show up on your flagged list.

It's important that you start organising now, no matter how many or few images you have. That number will only get bigger and the organising will seem more insurmountable. Once organised, keeping up and finding your images will become more pleasant.

Kevin J Wolfe

TOP FEATURES | Organise your iPhoto Library

Make an Event of it

To make finding your images a lot easier, you can turn an album or some images you've searched for into an Event.

Gear up for auto-organising

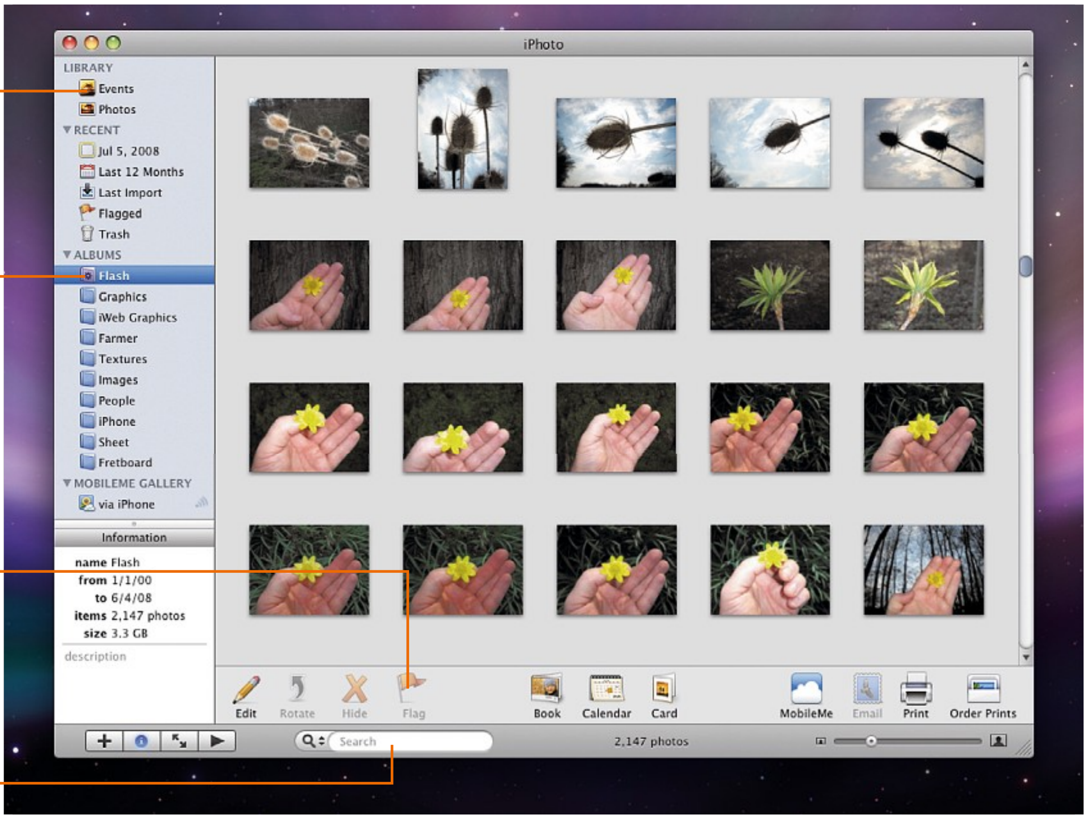
The little gear icon on an album represents a Smart Album that adds images all by itself, based on date, title and EXIF data on your camera.

Show your flag

Flagging images makes temporary organisation easy. Simply flag the image when browsing and they will show up in the flagged list.

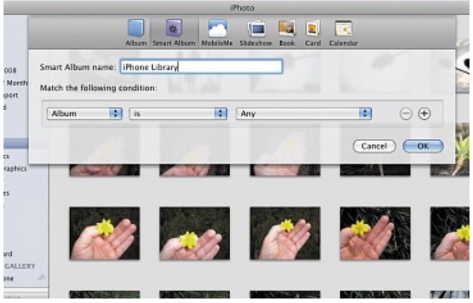
Key in your word

Keywords can locate tagged images by just typing a letter or two. You do need to add tags to each image, so it does take some effort.


iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events
Photos
RECENT
Jul 5, 2008
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Trash
ALBUMS
Flash
Graphics
iWeb Graphics
Farmer
Textures
Images
People
iPhone
Sheet
Fretboard
MOBILEME GALLERY
via iPhone
Information
description
Edit
Rotate
Hide
Flag
Book
Calendar
Card
MobileMe
Email
Print
Order Prints
Search
2,147 photos

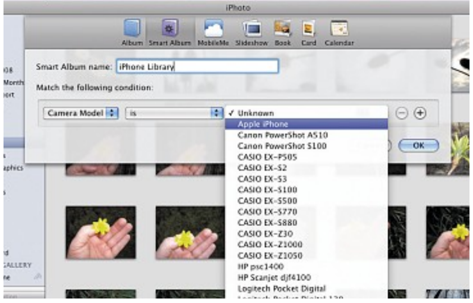
name Flash
from 1/1/00
to 6/4/08
items 2,147 photos
size 3.3 GB

STEP BY STEP Setting up Smart Albums


File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Album Smart Album MobileMe Slideshow Book Card Calendar
Cancel
OK

Smart Album name: iPhone Library
Match the following condition:
Album is Any

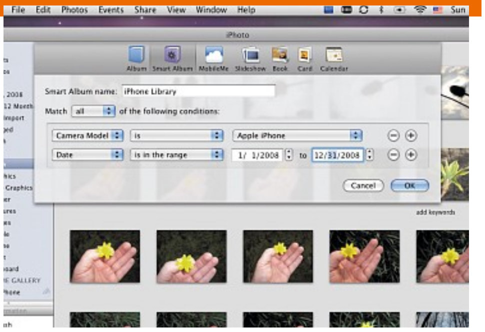
01 Click on the + button on the bottom-left of *iPhoto*. Choose the **Smart Album** icon. Name your album. Click on the **Album** condition list. Choose your criteria from the list. If you want a Smart Album to include only images shot with a specific camera, choose **Camera Model**. Leave the **is** list alone.


Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Album Smart Album MobileMe Slideshow Book Card Calendar
OK

Smart Album name: iPhone Library
Match the following condition:
Camera Model is ✓ Unknown

Apple iPhone
Canon PowerShot A510
Canon PowerShot S100
CASIO EX-P505
CASIO EX-S2
CASIO EX-S3
CASIO EX-S100
CASIO EX-S500
CASIO EX-S770
CASIO EX-S880
CASIO EX-Z30
CASIO EX-Z1000
CASIO EX-Z1050
HP psc1400
HP Scanjet djf4100
Logitech Pocket Digital

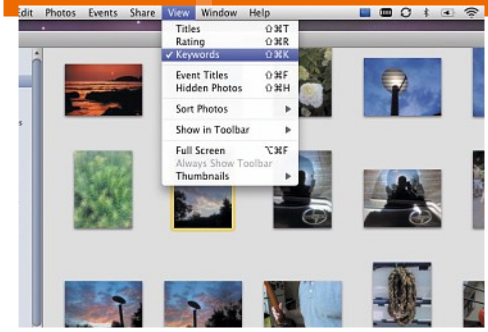
02 Click on the **Unknown** list. Images in your library that include EXIF data will reveal the camera that was used to take them, so some camera or scanner models may appear there that aren't yours. If you want to add criteria for deeper filtering, press the round + button to the right of the **condition** lists.


File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Album Smart Album MobileMe Slideshow Book Card Calendar
Cancel
OK
add keywords

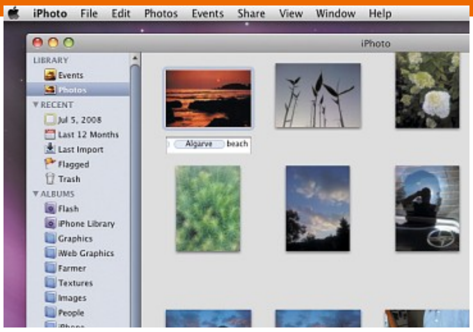
Smart Album name: iPhone Library
Match all of the following conditions:
Camera Model is Apple iPhone
Date is in the range 1/ 1/2008 to 12/31/2008

03 You might choose **Date, is in the range**, and **January 1, 2008** to **December 31, 2008**. This will give you a Smart Album of only the images shot with that camera this year. The end date can be set in the future. When done click **OK**. Your Smart Album will maintain itself as new images are added.

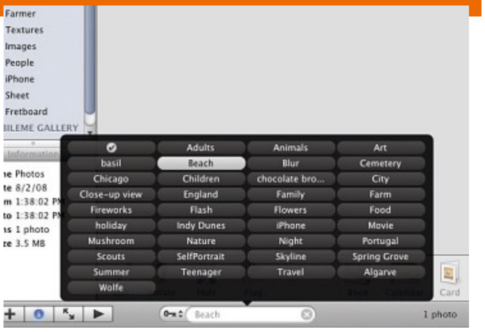
STEP BY STEP Using and adding keywords


Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
Titles ⇧⌘T
Rating ⇧⌘R
✓ Keywords ⇧⌘K
Event Titles ⇧⌘F
Hidden Photos ⇧⌘H
Sort Photos
Show in Toolbar
Full Screen ⌥⌘F
Always Show Toolbar
Thumbnails

01 Click on **View** from the **iPhoto** menu and check **Keywords** in the drop-down list. Drag your cursor over any image in your library and **Add Keywords** will appear below it. Click on **Add Keywords** and it turns into a text field. Type in your keywords. A keyword can be a phrase. (Just realise that phrases don't necessarily read as easily.)

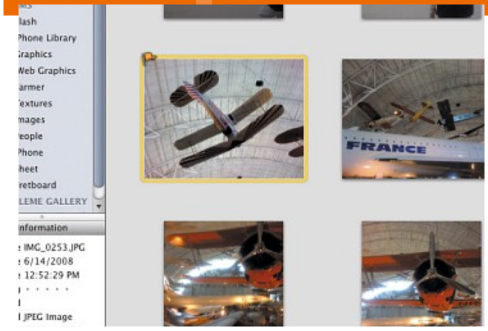

iPhoto File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events
Photos
RECENT
Jul 5, 2008
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Trash
ALBUMS
Flash
iPhone Library
Graphics
iWeb Graphics
Farmer
Textures
Images
People
Algarve beach

02 Press the [Enter] key between each word or phase. You can add multiple keywords for each image, so **holiday**, **Portugal**, **Algarve** and **beach** may be very useful for different searches you'll need to do. *iPhoto* remembers keywords and will give you a list after the first letter. Just tap a word and it's inserted as a keyword.

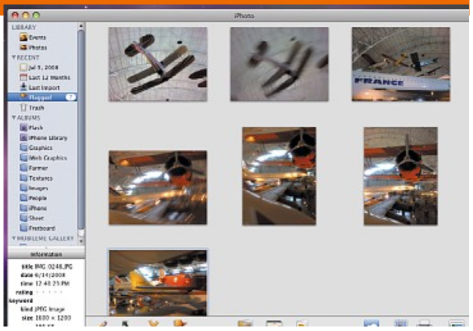

Farmer
Textures
Images
People
iPhone
Sheet
Fretboard
BILEME GALLERY
Information
✓
Adults
Animals
Art
basil
Beach
Blur
Cemetery
Chicago
Children
chocolate bro...
City
Close-up view
England
Family
Farm
Fireworks
Flash
Flowers
Food
holiday
Indy Dunes
iPhone
Movie
Mushroom
Nature
Night
Portugal
Scouts
SelfPortrait
Skyline
Spring Grove
Summer
Teenager
Travel
Algarve
Wolfe
Beach
Card
1 photo

03 To search by a keyword, click on the arrows next to *iPhoto's* **Search** magnifying glass and choose **Keyword**. *iPhoto* will show you a list of all your keywords. You can choose the word from the list or click on the **Search** field and start typing it. *iPhoto* will return a list of all images associated with that keyword.

STEP BY STEP Flagging up images

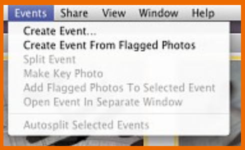

lash
iPhone Library
Graphics
iWeb Graphics
Farmer
Textures
Images
People
iPhone
Sheet
Fretboard
LEME GALLERY
Information
IMG_0253.JPG
6/14/2008
12:52:29 PM
JPEG Image

01 Flagging will give you a quick list of images to choose from. Click on an image in your library to highlight it. Click on the **Flag** icon on *iPhoto's* bottom toolbar, and a small flag will appear on the top-left of each photo so you'll know you've already marked that one. These images are all set aside in a special list.


iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events
Photos
RECENT
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Trash
ALBUMS

02 To view your flagged images, click on the **Flagged** icon near the top of your **Library** list. (You'll see the number of images you've flagged images next to the icon.) To unflag an image, click on it. Then click on the **Unflag** icon on the bottom toolbar and the image will disappear from your flagged list. ●

EXPERT TIP


Events Share View Window Help
Create Event...
Create Event From Flagged Photos
Split Event
Make Key Photo
Add Flagged Photos To Selected Event
Open Event In Separate Window
Autosplit Selected Events

To create an Event out of a group of images, highlight them, click the **Event** menu and choose **Create Event**. Name the Event so it's easy to find.

TOOL SCHOOL

The Flag tool can be used to quickly and easily mark any photo you want to find later on. You'll find it in the toolbar at the bottom of the screen when browsing images.

Add and edit titles in iMovie

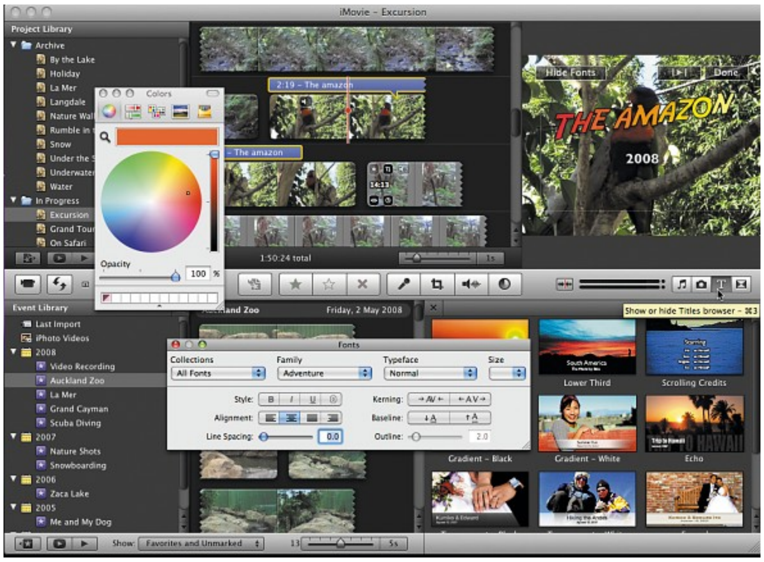
Don't mourn the loss of all of iMovie '06's titles: the new ones in '08 are highly customisable

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *iMovie 7.1.4* or later (£55, part of *iLife '08*, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)
- Some footage to play with or a ready-made project
- 30 minutes of your time

Apple *iMovie '06* came with 32 default titles, many of which could be customised in some limited way. You could, for instance, make your rolling credits scroll down as well as let it travel in the more traditional upward direction. At the time, we all thought they were amazing and were not happy when they were different in *iMovie '08*. However, if you look at them closely, you'll notice that they aren't on par with Apple's current animation efforts: compare them with *Keynote*'s effects and you'll realise how dated the ones in *iMovie '06* truly are.

In the spirit of simplifying that application and making it more accessible to potential users who have never edited a short film before and wouldn't know where to start, Apple rethought the whole process, threw away all these effects and came up with 12 static titles which are designed to look good with minimum effort. Some have colour overlays behind the text, others are semi-transparent, but the choice is regretfully quite small.


iMovie – Excursion
Project Library
Archive
By the Lake
Holiday
La Mer
Langdale
Nature Walk
Snow
Underwater
Water
In Progress
Excursion
Grand Tour
On Safari
Colors
Opacity
100 %
2:19 – The amazon
The amazon
1:50:24 total
Hide Fonts
Done
THE AMAZON
2008
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
2008
Video Recording
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Grand Cayman
Scuba Diving
2007
Nature Shots
Snowboarding
2006
Zaca Lake
2005
Me and My Dog
Friday, 2 May 2008
Fonts
Collections
Family
Typeface
Size
All Fonts
Adventure
Normal
Style:
Alignment:
Line Spacing:
Kerning:
Baseline:
Outline:
Show or hide Titles browser – ⌘3
Lower Third
Scrolling Credits
Gradient – Black
Gradient – White
Echo
Show: Favorites and Unmarked

The new titling tools in *iMovie '08* are more advanced than those in previous versions, allowing you to mix and match fonts.

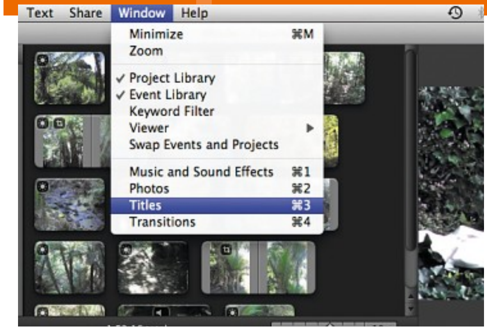
However, these new titles do excel at text editing: whereas *iMovie '06*'s version only let you select a single font type per title, *iMovie '08* offers you the traditional Mac OS X font window and enables you to mix and match fonts and sizes throughout your title. This will help you turn them into something a little more unique, despite the fact that there is no way to animate them or alter their backdrop.

> "iMovie '08 offers the traditional OS X font window and lets you mix and match fonts and sizes in your title"

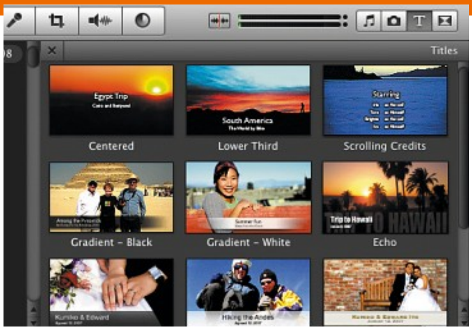
Also, whereas *iMovie '06* rendered the title onto your clip, therefore making it hard to edit or even deleting it after it had been added to your project, the latest version makes it incredibly easy to alter the title's length, position and content at any time.

We will use this tutorial to show you everything there is to know about adding and customising titles using *iMovie '08*.
Steve Paris

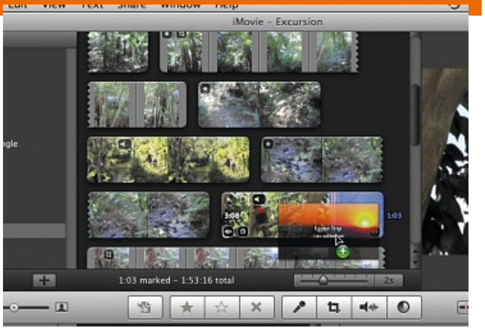
STEP BY STEP Customise your titles


Text Share Window Help
Minimize ⌘M
Zoom
✓ Project Library
✓ Event Library
Keyword Filter
Viewer
Swap Events and Projects
Music and Sound Effects ⌘1
Photos ⌘2
Titles ⌘3
Transitions ⌘4

01 Open *iMovie*, select one of your projects or create one from scratch. There are various ways to access the **Titles Browser**: go to Window > Titles; use the keyboard shortcut ⌘+[3]; or go to the Toolbar located in the middle of the interface and click on the icon on the right with a T inside it.

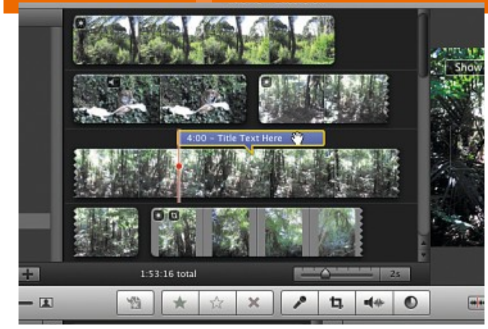

Titles
Centered
Lower Third
Scrolling Credits
Gradient – Black
Gradient – White
Echo

02 You can see at a glance all 12 titles, although you cannot edit or preview them from here. The tiny displayed thumbnails are all you get. In order to do anything, you must first add them to a project. To do that, click on one and drag it to the **Project** section. Do not release the mouse just yet.

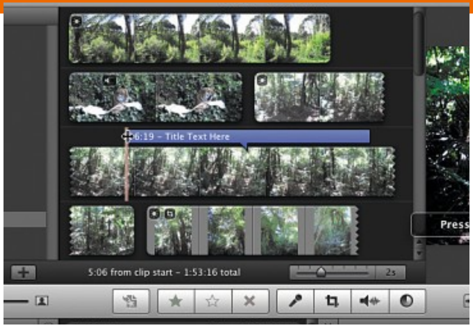

iMovie – Excursion
1:03 marked – 1:53:16 total

03 With your mouse button still held, move the transition over one of your clips. Notice that if the cursor is over the middle of the clip the whole clip turns blue. Hover near the beginning and roughly the first third is affected. Move to the end and the last third gets highlighted. Release the mouse at your chosen location.

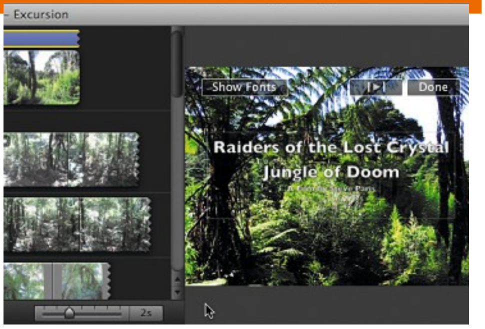
STEP BY STEP Customise your movie's titles… continued


4:00 – Title Text Here
1:53:16 total

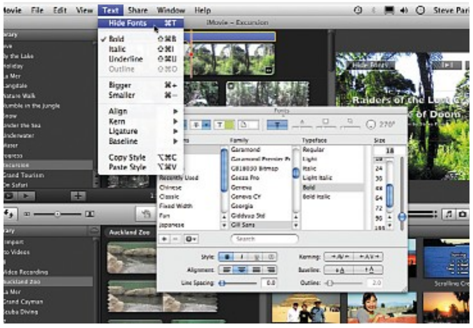
04 Whichever section was highlighted in blue now has a blue banner over it. That banner represents your title. It hasn't been written into your clip and can therefore be moved around. This means that you don't have to drop it exactly where it needs to be when adding it to the project. To move it, click on it and drag it to another location.


6:19 – Title Text Here
5:06 from clip start – 1:53:16 total

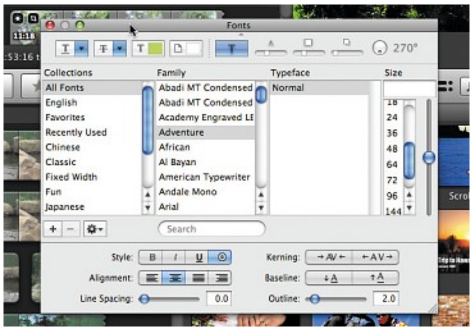
05 Its duration is also not set and can be altered very easily: move the mouse to the beginning or end of the title. As you do so, notice that the cursor changes to a resize tool. When that happens, click and drag away to lengthen it, or towards the title's centre to shorten it.


Excursion
Show Fonts
Done
Raiders of the Lost Crystal
Jungle of Doom

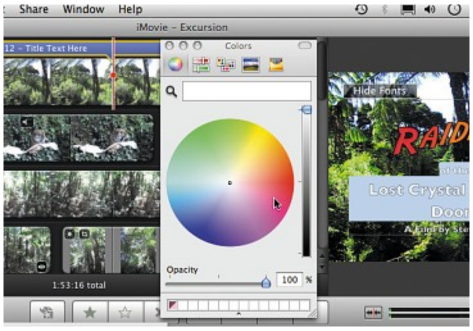
06 Click on the title to highlight it. In the **Preview** window, notice that the sample text is surrounded by a faint rectangular outline. This is the text box. Click anywhere inside it to summon a cursor. You are then free to alter the text to suit your needs. Notice that all titles contain text of different sizes.


Text
Hide Fonts
Bold
Italic
Underline
Outline
Bigger
Smaller
Align
Kern
Ligature
Baseline
Copy Style
Paste Style

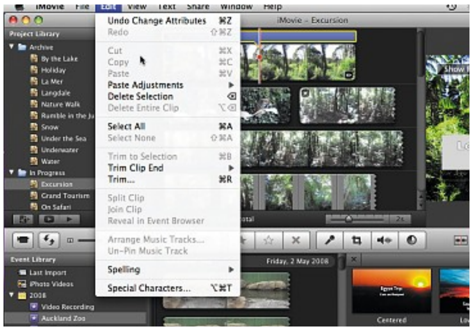
07 To modify the default font, start by clicking the **Show Fonts** button, top-left of the **Preview** window. The button is only displayed while the title is highlighted and the Project's playhead is somewhere over the title itself. This action opens up OS X's **Fonts Palette**. You can also access it at any time by pressing ⌘+[T].


Fonts
Collections
All Fonts
English
Favorites
Recently Used
Chinese
Classic
Fixed Width
Fun
Japanese
Family
Abadi MT Condensed
Academy Engraved LET
Adventure
African
Al Bayan
American Typewriter
Andale Mono
Arial
Typeface
Normal
Size
Search
Style:
Alignment:
Line Spacing:
Kerning:
Baseline:
Outline:

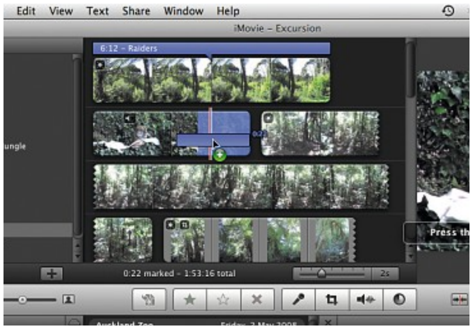
08 You now have complete control over the way your text looks. You can use multiple fonts and different sizes for your text, giving you much greater control over the look of your title than you had with *iMovie '06*. If you were so inclined, you could have a different font for each letter: *iMovie* won't bat an eyelid.


Share
Window
Help
iMovie – Excursion
Colors
Opacity
100
Hide Fonts
Lost Crystal

09 Click on the **Font Palette**'s **Text Colour** button to reveal Mac OS X's **Colours Palette**. Highlight the text you wish to alter and choose a colour. If you're using the colour wheel, click and drag over it and your text will change colour in real time. Release the mouse once you've found a suitable shade.

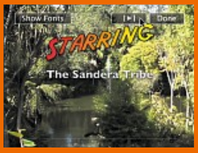

Undo Change Attributes
Redo
Cut
Copy
Paste
Paste Adjustments
Delete Selection
Delete Entire Clip
Select All
Select None
Trim to Selection
Trim Clip End
Trim…
Split Clip
Join Clip
Reveal in Event Browser
Arrange Music Tracks…
Un-Pin Music Track
Spelling
Special Characters…

10 After having performed so many changes, it would be a shame to have to redo all your work should you wish to add a similar title in another part of your project. Unfortunately, there isn't a method to copy and paste titles: highlight it and go to the menu bar's **Edit** menu: the **Copy** command is greyed out and unavailable.


Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Help
iMovie – Excursion
6:12 – Raiders
0:22 marked – 1:53:16 total

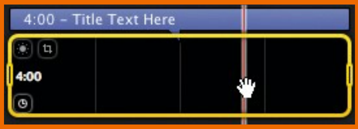
11 However, there is a shortcut that lets you copy it: hold down the ⌥ key, drag your title and a duplicate is created. If you release the mouse within the same clip however, nothing happens. But if you release the mouse over a different clip, the title is copied. You only need to edit the text and move the title to its proper location. ●

TOOL SCHOOL


Show Fonts
Done
STARRING
The Sandera Tribe

To check your work, click on the button at the top-right of the Preview window. The playhead will move to the start of your title and play forward from that point to the title's end.

EXPERT TIP


4:00 – Title Text Here
4:00

To add black frames to your project, drag a title to its very beginning or end: *iMovie* will create four seconds of black which you can then use anywhere you wish.

OS X SURVIVAL SKILLS

Keep your machine lean

Use OS X's built-in Activity Monitor to help make your Mac more efficient

Mac FORMAT On the disc

You can find *Hardware Monitor* on this issue's disc.

PROFILE

Name: Trevor Middleton
Occupation: Freelance consultant and trainer
System: 24-inch iMac (2.4GHz), MacBook (2.16GHz), Power Macintosh G4 tower (1GHz, FireWire 800)

Of all the hidden jewels in Mac OS X, there's a positive plethora of preciousness within the **Utilities** folder. In fact, I'm frequently at a loss as to why the contents of the **Utilities** folder are not better known to a more Mac users. One of the absolute lifesavers in there, and an application I've found myself turning to time and again, is *Activity Monitor*.

For those of you who aren't familiar with it, *Activity Monitor* (Go > Utilities), much like *Task Manager* in Windows, enables you to keep an eye on what's happening on your Mac, such as viewing its CPU load, checking the amount of RAM in use or swapped out, monitoring its network usage and checking the capacity of storage devices (which reminds me, it would be really useful to have a Mac OS X keyboard shortcut for accessing *Activity Monitor* on the fly, just as you can access *Task Manager* by hitting ⌥+⌘+[Delete]. But I digress).

Launch *Activity Monitor* and it can look a little daunting at first, but once you get used to the logically laid out columns, it can help you to sort out a whole load of performance-related problems. Here are just a few:

PowerPC or Intel?

Cast your eyes across to the **Kind** column. There you'll see details of the type of CPU under which each process was programmed to run; click the column header, and you can sort the list by CPU. If you have an Intel Mac, and you see a number of PowerPC processes running there, it's a pretty safe bet that they're affecting your Mac's efficiency. Some, of course, relate to applications that you might find it difficult to live without, but for others it's worthwhile finding an equivalent Universal Binary or Intel application. You might even find that some are login items that were installed for some long-defunct peripheral or other, in which case you'll need to go to System Preferences > Accounts to deactivate them in **Login Items**. And if you're not sure what exactly the process is, a Google search will usually bring something up.

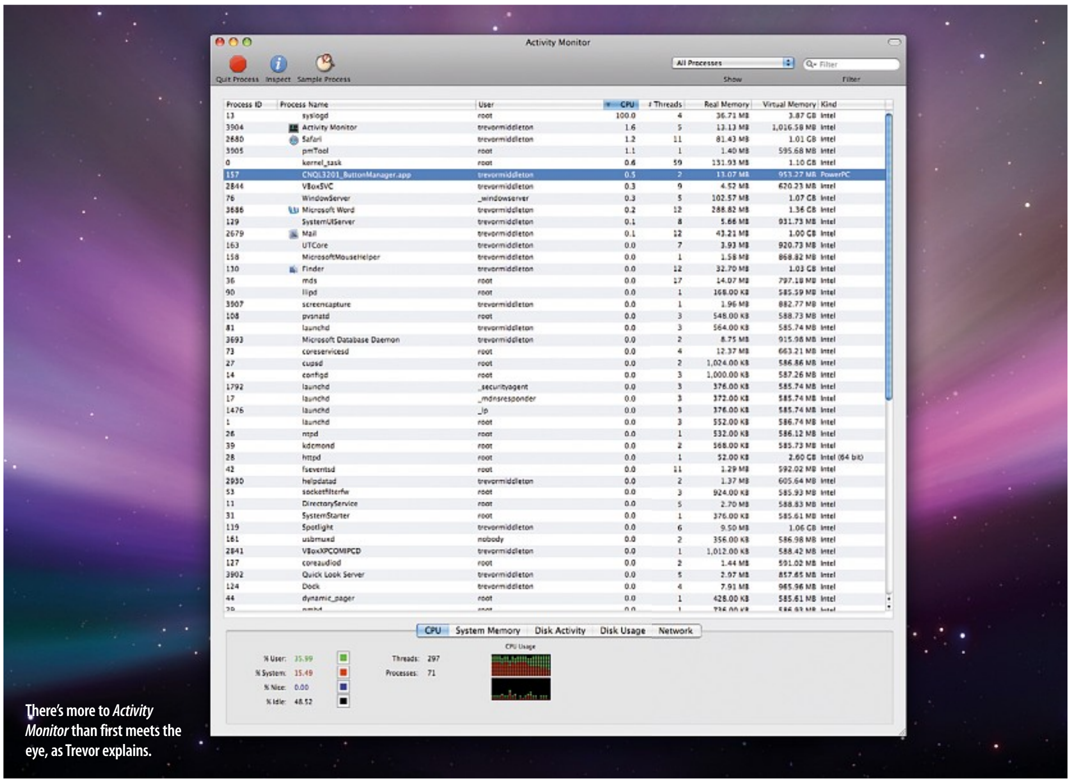
> "You might find that some are login items that were installed for some long-defunct peripheral"

Syslogd and other processor-hogs

If you sort the processes by the percentage of your Mac's CPU they're using you might get the odd surprise, especially if you're running Leopard. For instance, a process called 'syslogd', which is owned by root, can be taking up to 100% (more, in some reported cases) of the CPU. To find out more about syslogd, I went to *Terminal* and typed in: **man syslogd** to find that '[t]he syslogd server receives and processes log messages'. Actually there's more – much more – but I'm sure you have a life. Anyway, the upshot is that, having tried every possible fix, in the hope of passing on one that works, it now turns out to be a 'known issue' (according to Apple). So, if you notice that one, watch this space (or the many Mac forums online).

That's only a couple of ways in which you can use *Activity Monitor* to make sure that your Mac is running as smoothly as it possibly can – and spot any potential issues. Incidentally you can, if you want, have *Activity Monitor* place an icon showing CPU Usage, CPU History, Network Usage, Disk Activity and Memory Usage in the Dock: go to View > Dock Icon, and choose the item you want to appear from the submenu.

The last tip only works while *Activity Monitor* is running; if you want something more permanent, give Marcel Bresink's *Hardware Monitor* a try. It's about £7 (depending on how sterling's doing against the euro), and you'll find it at **www.bresink.com/osx/HardwareMonitor.html**. You can find the trial version on this issue's disc. ●



Process ID	Process Name	User	CPU	# Threads	Real Memory	Virtual Memory	Kind
13	syslogd	root	100.0	4	36.71 MB	3.87 GB	Intel
3904	Activity Monitor	trevormiddleton	1.6	5	13.13 MB	1,016.58 MB	Intel
2680	Safari	trevormiddleton	1.2	11	81.43 MB	1.01 GB	Intel
3905	pmTool	root	1.1	1	1.40 MB	595.68 MB	Intel
0	kernel_task	root	0.6	59	131.93 MB	1.10 GB	Intel
157	CNQL3201_ButtonManager.app	trevormiddleton	0.5	2	13.07 MB	953.27 MB	PowerPC
2844	VBoxSVC	trevormiddleton	0.3	9	4.52 MB	620.23 MB	Intel
76	WindowServer	_windowserver	0.3	5	102.57 MB	1.07 GB	Intel
3686	Microsoft Word	trevormiddleton	0.2	12	288.82 MB	1.36 GB	Intel
129	SystemUIServer	trevormiddleton	0.1	8	5.66 MB	931.73 MB	Intel
2679	Mail	trevormiddleton	0.1	12	43.21 MB	1.00 GB	Intel
163	UTCore	trevormiddleton	0.0	7	3.93 MB	920.73 MB	Intel
158	MicrosoftMouseHelper	trevormiddleton	0.0	1	1.58 MB	868.82 MB	Intel
130	Finder	trevormiddleton	0.0	12	32.70 MB	1.03 GB	Intel
36	mds	root	0.0	17	14.07 MB	797.18 MB	Intel
90	llipd	root	0.0	1	168.00 KB	585.59 MB	Intel
3907	screencapture	trevormiddleton	0.0	1	1.96 MB	882.77 MB	Intel
108	pvsnatd	root	0.0	3	548.00 KB	588.73 MB	Intel
81	launchd	trevormiddleton	0.0	3	564.00 KB	585.74 MB	Intel
3693	Microsoft Database Daemon	trevormiddleton	0.0	2	8.75 MB	915.98 MB	Intel
73	coreservicesd	root	0.0	4	12.37 MB	663.21 MB	Intel
27	cupsd	root	0.0	2	1,024.00 KB	586.86 MB	Intel
14	configd	root	0.0	3	1,000.00 KB	587.26 MB	Intel
1792	launchd	_securityagent	0.0	3	376.00 KB	585.74 MB	Intel
17	launchd	_mdnsresponder	0.0	3	372.00 KB	585.74 MB	Intel
1476	launchd	_lp	0.0	3	376.00 KB	585.74 MB	Intel
1	launchd	root	0.0	3	552.00 KB	586.74 MB	Intel
26	ntpd	root	0.0	1	532.00 KB	586.12 MB	Intel
39	kdcmond	root	0.0	2	568.00 KB	585.73 MB	Intel
28	httpd	root	0.0	1	52.00 KB	2.60 GB	Intel (64 bit)
42	fseventsd	root	0.0	11	1.29 MB	592.02 MB	Intel
2930	helpdatad	trevormiddleton	0.0	2	1.37 MB	605.64 MB	Intel
53	socketfilterfw	root	0.0	3	924.00 KB	585.93 MB	Intel
11	DirectoryService	root	0.0	5	2.70 MB	588.83 MB	Intel
31	SystemStarter	root	0.0	1	376.00 KB	585.61 MB	Intel
119	Spotlight	trevormiddleton	0.0	6	9.50 MB	1.06 GB	Intel
161	usbmuxd	nobody	0.0	2	356.00 KB	586.98 MB	Intel
2841	VBoxXPCOMIPCD	trevormiddleton	0.0	1	1,012.00 KB	588.42 MB	Intel
127	coreaudiod	root	0.0	2	1.44 MB	591.02 MB	Intel
3902	Quick Look Server	trevormiddleton	0.0	5	2.07 MB	857.65 MB	Intel
124	Dock	trevormiddleton	0.0	4	7.91 MB	965.96 MB	Intel
44	dynamic_pager	root	0.0	1	428.00 KB	585.61 MB	Intel

% User: 35.99
% System: 15.49
% Nice: 0.00
% Idle: 48.52
Threads: 297
Processes: 71

There's more to *Activity Monitor* than first meets the eye, as Trevor explains.

equinux

Free-to-air TV for your Mac.

MacBook
equinux
TubeStick

equinux
TubeStick
Digital TV on your Mac & PC
Digitales Fernsehen auf dem Mac & PC

TubeStick

With the stylish white TubeStick from equinux you can receive free-to-air Digital Television (DTT) on your Mac. With The Tube you can watch, timeshift, schedule programmed recordings and chat with other TV viewers while watching your favourite shows. The Tube is the only TV software that allows you to experience an entire TV community directly on your Mac.

Available at Apple retailers or www.equinux.com

Resellers can order TubeStick through Computers Unlimited.

cymrupix / Alamy

If you have a Mac and an internet connection, you have everything you need to follow our guide to getting yourself totally organised!

Get organised with your Mac

Looking at ways to keep track of events and To Dos on your Mac and on the internet

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Mac OS X 10.5 for To Do and Notes (other features will work in earlier versions of OS X)
- *Safari* or *Firefox*
- Remember the Milk account (free, **www.rememberthemilk.com**)
- 30 minutes of your time

You're a busy person – you have a hundred million things to do and remember. Just this month, there's cousin Susan's birthday, but what day is that, exactly? And Marcia's school play is on next week, and she's not going to be able to look the other kids in the eye if you don't manage to get her costume right by the final dress rehearsal on Wednesday. So how do you keep track of all the things that must be done?

Luckily, your Mac comes with a few good options baked in, and there are some excellent choices available in the form of shareware applications and online services. In this feature, we're going to focus on two programs already available to you on your Mac: *iCal* (all version of OS X) and *Mail's* Notes and To Dos (OS X 10.5 Leopard only). And then we'll introduce just one of the many excellent free organisational services available online: Remember the Milk (**www.rememberthemilk.com**).

Getting it done with iCal

iCal is an excellent way of keeping track of your schedule. You can add multiple calendars – for Work and Home events, say, or one for each member of your family, or following David Allen's popular Getting Things Done approach (see opposite), one for each context. It's simple and intuitive to use: just double-click on a day (in month view), or (in day or week view) click once on the start time of your event and, holding down the mouse button, drag the new event box to the finish time, and then enter your event details. Hitting ⌘+[I] brings up a box that enables you to enter further information, such as a location, what kind of alarm you would like to set, if any, and the option to add attendees or any notes to your new event.

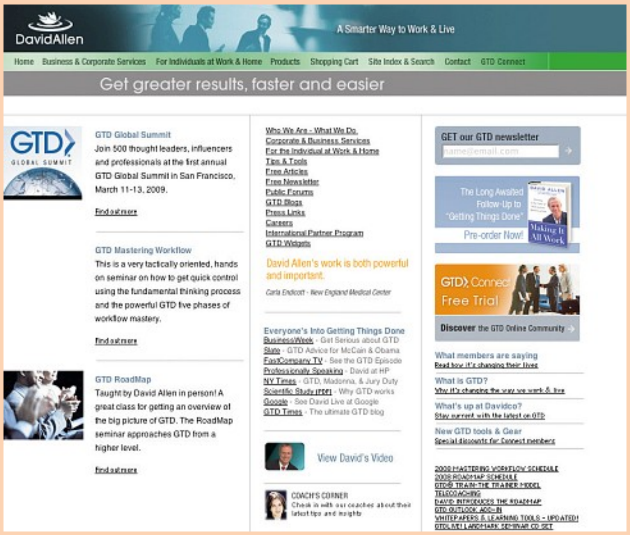
> "With iCal you can add multiple calendars – for Work or Home, or one for each member of your family"

You can also add **To Do** items directly in *iCal*. You can either click on the drawing pin icon at the bottom-right of the calendar window, or hit ⌘+⌥+[T], to bring up the **To Do** panel on the right. Then either double-click in the panel or type ⌘+[K] to add a new task. So now, along with the calendar entry, you can add a reminder that you need to head over to the craft shop on Tuesday to collect green felt for Marcia's costume.

What about Susan's birthday? This involves another Apple tool – your

GETTING THINGS DONE | Putting together your physical inbox

Getting Things Done, or GTD, is a technique for managing a busy life. In his bestselling book on the method, David Allen offers a flowchart for turning 'stuff' into actions that you can actually do. The first step is collecting together everything that requires your attention, whether it's an email message or that worrying recollection in the middle of the night that it's Susan's birthday sometime this month. Allen recommends starting with a thorough review of all areas of your life, including writing down everything that you're holding in your head, and putting all the bits and pieces you end up with in one big (physical) inbox. Then work your way through all that material asking a number of questions: What is it?; Is it actionable? If it isn't, then if it's reference material, file it away where you'll find it easily; if it's something you might return to someday, file it under a **Someday** list; if it's trash then toss it – right now. If it is actionable, then you ask: What's the next action? If that would take two minutes or less to do, do it! If it is actionable, but would take more than two minutes to complete, then either delegate it or defer it for later – it's in deferring things that you start to use your calendar and To Do lists, marking things with specific deadlines on the calendar (what Allen calls the 'hard landscape'), and adding more open-ended tasks to your lists. The next step is clarifying your various projects: a project is any outcome that has more than one task or step associated with it – making Marcia's costume, for instance, requires you to buy felt, and to draw up a pattern, so let's think of it as a discrete project including several steps. Working through your list then becomes a progressive movement towards completing the project. The final distinguishing aspect of GTD is its emphasis on 'context'-based lists: if you have a list of actions that's tagged with the context 'call', then you can easily see what you can get done when you have a few minutes and access to a telephone.



Get greater results, faster and easier

GTD Global Summit
Join 500 thought leaders, influencers and professionals at the first annual GTD Global Summit in San Francisco, March 11-13, 2009.
Find out more

GTD Mastering Workflow
This is a very tactically oriented, hands on seminar on how to get quick control using the fundamental thinking process and the powerful GTD five phases of workflow mastery.
Find out more

GTD RoadMap
Taught by David Allen in person! A great class for getting an overview of the big picture of GTD. The RoadMap seminar approaches GTD from a higher level.
Find out more

Who We Are - What We Do
Corporate & Business Services
For the Individual at Work & Home
Tips & Tools
Free Articles
Free Newsletter
Public Forums
GTD Blogs
Press Links
Careers
International Partner Program
GTD Widgets

David Allen's work is both powerful and important.
Carla Endicott - New England Medical Center

Everyone's Into Getting Things Done
BusinessWeek - Get Serious about GTD
Slate - GTD Advice for McCain & Obama
FastCompany TV - See the GTD Episode
Professionally Speaking - David at HP
NY Times - GTD, Madonna, & Jury Duty
Scientific Study (PDF) - Why GTD works
Google - See David Live at Google
GTD Times - The ultimate GTD blog

View David's Video

COACH'S CORNER
Check in with our coaches about their latest tips and insights

GET our GTD newsletter
name@email.com

The Long Awaited Follow-Up to "Getting Things Done"
Pre-order Now!

Discover the GTD Online Community

What members are saying
Read how it's changing their lives

What is GTD?
Why it's changing the way we work & live

What's up at Davidco?
Stay current with the latest on GTD

New GTD tools & Gear
Special discounts for Connect members

2008 MASTERING WORKFLOW SCHEDULE
2008 ROADMAP SCHEDULE
GTD® TRAIN-THE TRAINER MODEL
TELECOACHING
DAVID INTRODUCES THE ROADMAP
GTD OUTLOOK ADD-IN
WHITEPAPERS & LEARNING TOOLS - UPDATED!
GTD LIVE! LANDMARK SEMINAR CD SET

David Allen's website, www.davidco.com, is full of information on GTD for the home and business user.

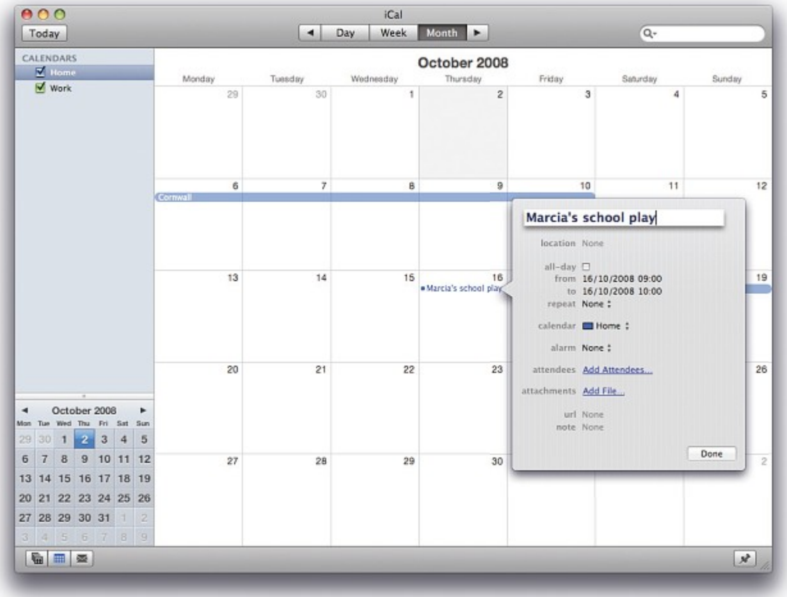
Address Book. Just open it up and find Susan's details; by default, the birthday field isn't added to every card, so you need to click on **Card** and then **Add Field** and select **Birthday**. You could also edit the default layout so that birthdays were always listed, but this might get untidy if you only wanted to keep track of friends and family. Now enter Susan's details and switch back to *iCal*, and then bring up the *iCal* **Preferences** window (by clicking on *iCal* and then **Preferences**, or by tapping ⌘+[,]) and make sure the box is ticked next to **Show Birthdays calendar**. Now *iCal* will synchronise all the birthdays in your *Address Book*, so they show up as events in your calendar. Susan's birthday's covered!

Mail to the rescue...

With the advent of Leopard, Apple made keeping organised even easier, by introducing Notes and To Dos directly in *Mail*. Since so much of our information comes in the form of email messages, it makes real sense to treat *Mail* as a hub for staying on top of things. Notes and To Dos appear in a list under your mailboxes – but the heading they're under, **Reminders**, won't appear until you've added your first ones. As you'd expect from Apple, these features are really simple to use: by default, the buttons to add a new Note or To Do are right there beside the **New Mail** button on your toolbar. And if you prefer to use your keyboard, you can make a new Note with ⌘+⇧+[N], and a new To Do with ⌘+⌥+[Y].

You can specify which calendar To Dos created in *Mail* are copied into, so that anything added here will show up exactly where you need to find it in *iCal*. And with the clever data recognition in Leopard *Mail*, your computer works out when a message contains information that might pertain to an event – so, say you sent Susan a reminder about Marcia's play, with the words 'Marcia's play is on Thursday evening at 7pm,' then when Susan moved the mouse pointer on her new MacBook over the second half of that sentence, *Mail* would draw a dotted line around the day and time and show a pull-down menu from which she could directly add the event to her *iCal*, with the event title – 'Marcia's play' – and the time and date automatically supplied.

If you use Apple's MobileMe, then you can synchronise your *iCal* and *Mail* accounts, including Notes and To Dos, on a number of Macs, or access your information from any web-connected computer via your account on Me.com. This is one good way of keeping track of ►



Marcia's school play
location None
all-day ☐
from 16/10/2008 09:00
to 16/10/2008 10:00
repeat None
calendar Home
alarm None
attendees Add Attendees...
attachments Add File...
url None
note None

iCal is a great built-in option for keeping track of your schedule – it's simple in its design so you can easily keep track of all you have to do.

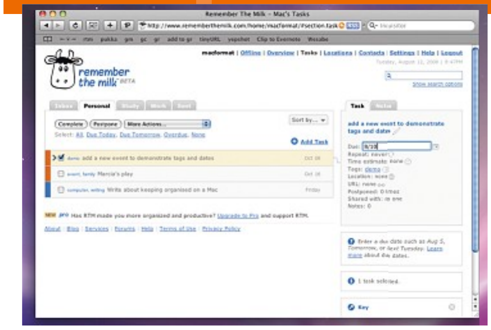
> **"If you use Apple's MobilMe, then you can synchronise your iCal and Mail accounts, Notes and To Dos"**

QUICK TIP

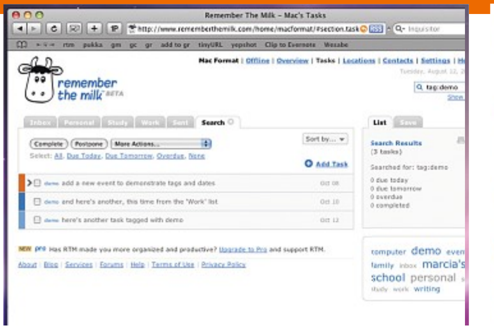
Hmm, pretty – and useful!

Remember the Milk for iPhone/iPod touch was recently awarded the Apple Design Award for Best iPhone web application – but you'll need to upgrade to a Pro account to use it. That's $25 (£13) a year well spent if you want to keep track of things on the go! There is also a standard mobile version available to all, but it's not nearly so pretty.

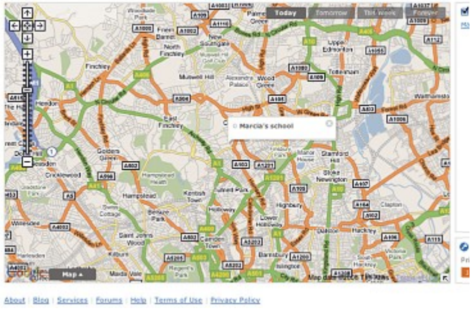
STEP BY STEP Organise your life with Remember the Milk



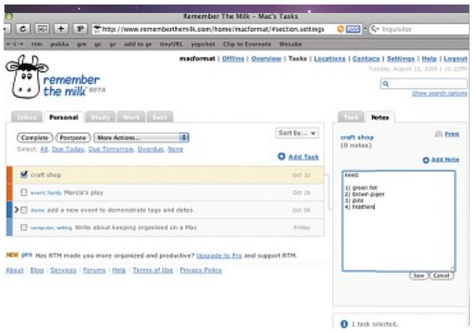
01 Remember the Milk (RTM) has intelligent data parsing, so you can enter dates, for instance, in several forms: you could type **8/10** or **8 Oct** or **next Wednesday** and all would be recognised correctly. We've also added a tag to this task: **demo**. Tags are a useful and flexible way of keeping related information together.



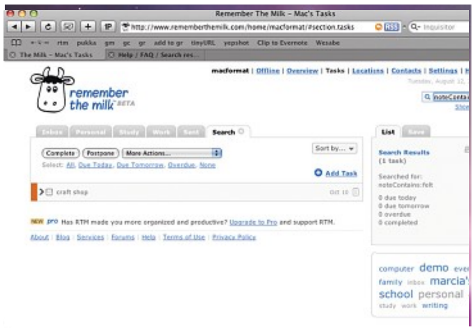
02 If your events are split across several lists, click on the word **demo** to display all tasks with that tag. In this screenshot, the **Tag Cloud** is turned on, which helps you navigate tasks by their tags – click on the tag in the cloud to bring up a search for all instances of the tag. The different coloured bars correspond to priority levels, which can be set by tapping the numeric keys [1] to [4].



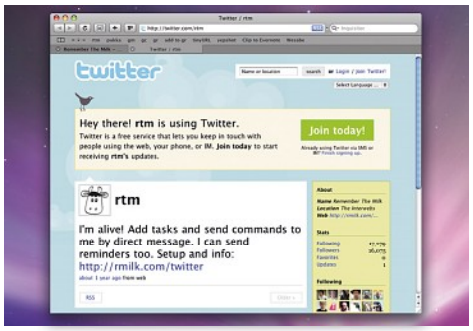
03 You may also have noticed in the last screenshot the tag **Marcia's school**: that's a location tag. You can specify places on the map, and then bunch your tasks together to simplify things: you're near Marcia's school tomorrow for one unrelated matter, but since that's close to where you need to be for this other task, it makes sense to complete them both at once.



04 Here we've added a new task, and by tapping [Y] we're able to add a note. You can add several notes to any task – as a situation changes, you might want to keep track of what's happening in successive notes. The most recent one is always on top, and anyway the date and time of each note's creation is appended once you click **Save**.



05 RTM has powerful search facilities, so we could search the text of all notes by entering **noteContains:felt** in the search panel at the top right. By clicking on **Save** we could then save this search as a **Smart List**, so that any new task with **felt** in its note would appear alongside the one we've already made.



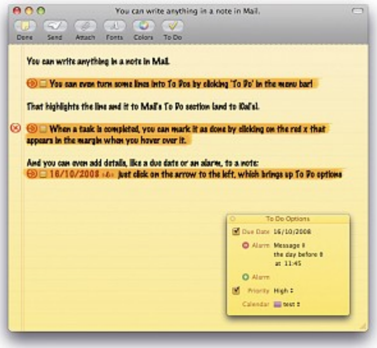
06 You can interact with RTM using several other web services, including receiving reminders via Skype, or Google Talk. You can also email new tasks to your RTM account, or, using *Twitter*, you can add tasks by SMS messaging.

things on the go (at least in theory, though MobileMe's not quite delivered on its promise yet – let's call them teething problems for now).

Further online options

So these are some easy ways of keeping track of your life with tools you already have access to on your Mac. MobileMe aside, there are many other dedicated online options for doing this, too – these are particularly appealing to those of us who have to work across several machines, and between Windows and Mac OS X. Though we could fill several issues of the magazine exploring these online services, here we're going to focus on **www.rememberthemilk.com**.

Remember the Milk describes itself as setting out to make 'managing tasks an enjoyable experience': for many of us, that would be a difficult thing to do, but RTM just about manages it. The service has been around a while now: they have over 600,000 users, and the project (still described as being in beta) will mark its third birthday in October 2008.



You can write anything in a note in Mail.

☐ You can even turn some lines into To Dos by clicking 'To Do' in the menu bar!

That highlights the line and it to Mail's To Do section (and to iCal).

☐ When a task is completed, you can mark it as done by clicking on the red x that appears in the margin when you hover over it.

And you can even add details, like a due date or an alarm, to a note:
☐ 16/10/2008 just click on the arrow to the left, which brings up To Do options

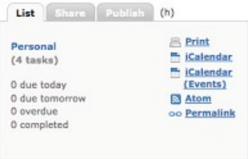
To Do Options
☑ Due Date 16/10/2008
Alarm Message the day before at 11:45
Alarm
☑ Priority High
Calendar test

You can write anything in a Note in *Mail*, and you also have the option of including To Do items.

Basically, RTM is a task manager – and then some. You can add an unlimited number of lists, so you might have one for each project in your life: say, a 'work' list, a 'family' list, a list to keep track of planning a holiday or buying a house, and so on. Or you could adopt a GTD-like set of place-based lists – one for town, one for office, one for home, and so on. Such lists, though, are really the blunt edge of RTM – it comes into its own much more when you start to use other features like task tagging and smart lists (see the step-by-step guide above).

The design is deliberately clean and simple – white page, grey list headings, very little clutter. It's easy on the eye, and

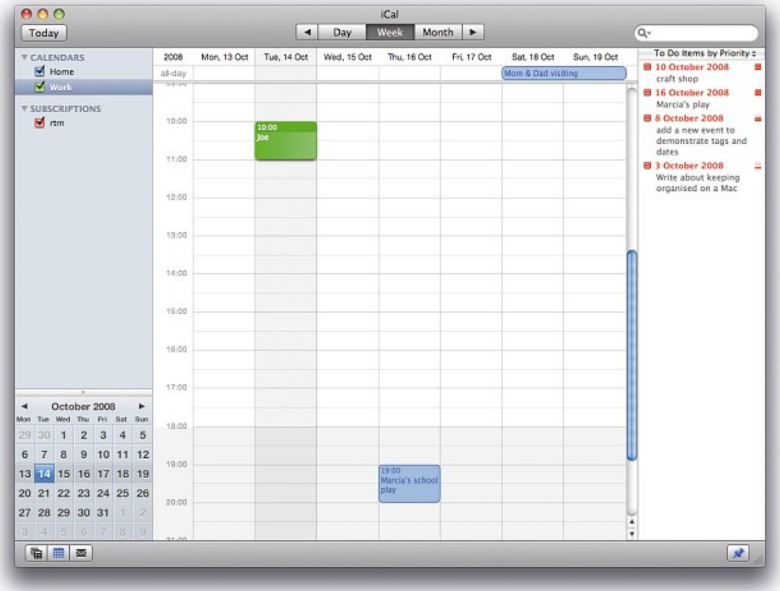
QUICK TIP



0 due today
0 due tomorrow
0 overdue
0 completed

Tasks meet hard landscape

You can subscribe to RTM tasks in *iCal*, which doubles as a form of offline backup of your lists. Using OS X's built-in *iSync*, you can then synchronise your task lists to your mobile phone or PDA so you can have them with you when and wherever you need them.


iCal
Today
Day
Week
Month
CALENDARS
Home
Work
SUBSCRIPTIONS
rtm
2008
Mon, 13 Oct
Tue, 14 Oct
Wed, 15 Oct
Thu, 16 Oct
Fri, 17 Oct
Sat, 18 Oct
Sun, 19 Oct
all-day
Mom & Dad visiting
10:00
Joe
19:00
Marcia's school play
October 2008

To Do Items by Priority

10 October 2008
craft shop

16 October 2008
Marcia's play

8 October 2008
add a new event to demonstrate tags and dates

3 October 2008
Write about keeping organised on a Mac

You can subscribe to an *iCal* feed of your tasks in Remember the Milk, so they show up directly in your *iCal* – but it's only a one-way feed.

because the look is so stripped back, there's little to distract you from what's really important: all those tasks you need to keep track of. Like most of the programs on your Mac, RTM also has a range of keyboard shortcuts to speed up your workflow – try tapping [T] to make a new task, or [J] and [K] to move up and down within a list, or [C] to complete the currently selected task (indicated by a > to the left of the task). There's help easily available from your main lists page.

You can easily share your lists with other RTM users, or even make your lists – or just some of them – publicly viewable. You can subscribe to an RSS feed of your lists using any news aggregator, and there's even an *iCal* feed available for each of your lists, so that your tasks show up in *iCal* (this is a read-only feed, so you're not able to make changes to tasks, though that's something that's been discussed in the RTM user forums).

Google Gears

If you use *Firefox*, you can take RTM offline with Google Gears, so that you can keep track of things if you're away from an internet connection, and sync them when you're next connected. (Google is apparently working on Gears for *Webkit*, which is the basis of the *Safari* browser, so before too long you should be able to do this with *Safari*, too.)

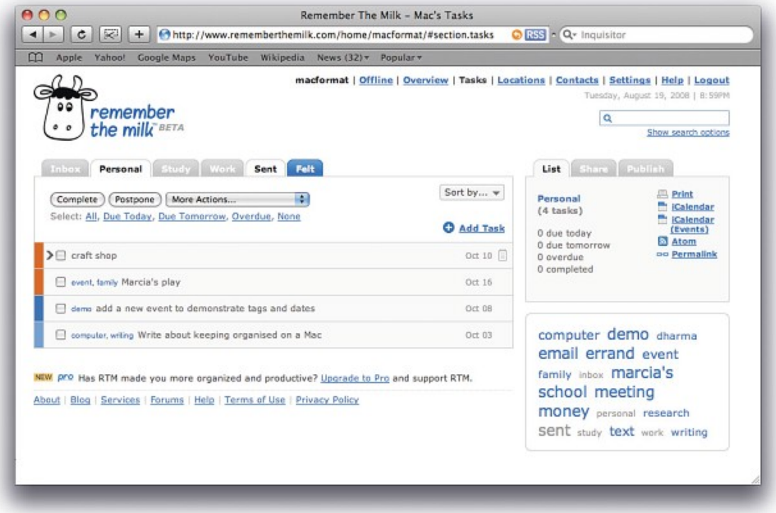
For many users, what makes RTM especially good is its integration with other services, particularly Google's Gmail and Calendar. Gmail integration again requires you to use *Firefox*, and install a free add-on in the browser. With it you can then see and edit your tasks directly from your Gmail inbox, and easily link tasks to particular email messages. If you're using Google Calendar, you can add your tasks to the calendar – a blue and white tick appears at the top-left of each day, and clicking it tells you what's due (or overdue) that day.

> "Take RTM offline with Google Gears and you can keep track of things without an internet connection"

A year ago, RTM introduced Pro accounts, which cost $25 (£13) per year. When they announced this, they promised new features for Pro users, but actually had none in place at the time. In addition, upgraders were offered priority support via email, and 'a warm fuzzy feeling' that they were supporting future developments (and feeding Bob T. Monkey, the stuffed monkey who's the fourth member of the RTM team). Since then, though, they've rolled out a number of Pro benefits, including RTM for iPhone/iPod touch and 'MilkSync' clients for Blackberry and Windows Mobile devices, which allow you two-way synchronisation of your mobile or PDA with your RTM lists.

So whether it's using the built-in apps like *Mail* and *iCal*, or spreading your wings online with Remember The Milk, you'll find your Mac has all the tools you need to keep you organised. You just need to remember to use them!

Ian Tromp


Remember The Milk – Mac's Tasks
http://www.rememberthemilk.com/home/macformat/#section.tasks
RSS
Inquisitor
Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (32)
Popular
remember the milk BETA
macformat | Offline | Overview | Tasks | Locations | Contacts | Settings | Help | Logout
Tuesday, August 19, 2008 | 8:59PM
Show search options
Inbox
Personal
Study
Work
Sent
Felt
Complete
Postpone
More Actions...
Sort by...
Add Task
List
Share
Publish
Print
iCalendar
iCalendar (Events)
Atom
Permalink
computer demo dharma email errand event family inbox marcia's school meeting money personal research sent study text work writing
About | Blog | Services | Forums | Help | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy

Select: All, Due Today, Due Tomorrow, Overdue, None

craft shop	Oct 10
event, family	Marcia's play	Oct 16
demo	add a new event to demonstrate tags and dates	Oct 08
computer, writing	Write about keeping organised on a Mac	Oct 03

Personal
(4 tasks)

0 due today
0 due tomorrow
0 overdue
0 completed

NEW pro Has RTM made you more organized and productive? Upgrade to Pro and support RTM.

Don't let its simple design fool you – Remember the Milk is a full-featured task-managing, user-organising powerhouse. You'll never forget the milk again!

HACKING YOUR LIFE

Two great websites to check out are **www.Lifehacker.com** and **www.43folders.com** – both offer regular tips and updates on improving your productivity and your life in general. Wiktionary, the online user-contributed dictionary cousin of Wikipedia, defines 'lifehack' as 'any process or technique that reduces the chaos in one's life and makes it easier to manage, or more convenient.' Both sites post a wide range of 'hacks,' from ways to organise your media collections or synchronise your information across computers, to tips on peeling a hard-boiled egg or finding lost keys. Don't miss Merlin Mann's introduction to GTD, at **http://tinyurl.com/ztbxw**, or Lifehacker's many posts on *iCal* (**http://tinyurl.com/6cg4jd**) and Apple *Mail* (**http://tinyurl.com/584buc**).

lifehacker
TIPS AND DOWNLOADS FOR GETTING THINGS DONE
search
username
password
login
new user? help?
MEMBERS PROJECT
One simple click can make a difference.
YOU DECIDE

GTD

Advanced Guide to Getting Things Done in Remember the Milk

Remember the Milk's in-house blog has a meaty post up from guest Doug Ireton, explaining how reader favorite to-do manager Remember the Milk can be fully integrated into any Getting Things Done system. We've previously posted a simple guide to RTM/GTD integration, but Ireton covers a lot more ground, from list organization to context tagging to catch-all "smart lists." Hit the link for a serious schooling in online task management.

Guest Post: Advanced GTD with Remember The Milk [Remember the Milk Blog]

Read More:

1. BusinessWeek on Getting Things Done
2. Chandler 1.0 Brings Alternative Information Manager Closer to Reality
3. Task-Defined Binder Clips for Your Hipster PDA
4. Are You a Productivity Hobbyist?

5:30 AM on Wed Jun 4 2008
By Kevin Purdy
10,528 views
14 comments

Check out Lifehacker for reems of helpful information on *iCal*, Apple *Mail*, and just about everything else!

QUICK TIP

Smart Mailbox Name:
Cancel
OK

Smart mailboxes

Using smart mailboxes in *Mail*, you can easily make your own tag-based searches: for example, searching for any To Do that includes the phrase 'craftshop.'

.net
MAGAZINE
AWARDS_
2008

Sick of awards where you have no say? Now's your chance to get involved

Join the world's best selling magazine for web designers and developers, as we celebrate the best on the net. For more than 10 years, the **.net** Awards have celebrated the web's great and good, and this year's Awards look like being the best yet!

Don't miss out and cast your vote now!

*The categories

- Design agency of the year
- Viral campaign of the year
- Mashup of the year
- Standards champion
- Mobile site of the year
- Podcast of the year
- Vodcast of the year
- Best redesign of the year
- The infamy award
- Interactive site of the year
- Innovation of the year
- Web personality of the year
- Socially powered site
- Blog of the year
- Open source application of the year
- Web application of the year
- Website of the year

Visit us online and nominate today!

www.thenetawards.com

The nominations phase will close on 13 October.

Sponsored by

xenon
Microsoft Expression
donhost
HOSTWAY THE HOSTING COMPANY
OVH.CO.UK
moodboard transforming stock photography
MOONFRUIT

Give your MacBook more Desktop real estate and discover a whole new level of productivity with the addition of an external screen.

Set up multiple displays

Give yourself more space to work – and play – by hooking up an extra monitor

No doubt about it, Macs are certainly versatile. What's more, if you have one of the latest iMacs or MacBooks, having a display that's so achingly gorgeous makes whatever you're doing more pleasurable. In fact, it could even make work fun – well, almost.

However, there might be times when you hanker after that little bit of extra display space: maybe you'd like to play a DVD through your new LCD or plasma TV, or perhaps your MacBook's display feels a little cramped for that fiddly retouching job in *Photoshop Elements*.

Well, hanker no more: with most newer Macs – and a great many older ones, too – you can attach an extra monitor, or connect them to a TV, with nothing more than a cable, plus an adaptor or two in some cases. Over the next few pages, then, we'll be telling you how you can hook up many of the most popular Macs to an external display – and, in most cases, what you'll need to do it. Who knows: you might unlock the hidden potential in a Mac you've had for years – and maybe a little in yourself, too! But first, more on the ways in which you can put that extra monitor to use.

Which is for you: mirrored display – or Extended Desktop?

Depending on the capabilities of your Mac, your external display will either show exactly what appears on your Mac's screen (mirroring), or allow you to stretch your Mac's Desktop across the extra screen space (Extended Desktop). If your Mac has limited graphics capacity you'll only be able to set up a mirrored display; if it has higher quality graphics you'll be able to do either.

> "With newer Macs – and many older ones too – you can attach an extra monitor or connect them to a TV"

So, which Macs can take an extra display, and how can they use it? As ever, there are variations according to which model you have, but there are at least consistent patterns within model ranges, which it's fairly easy to summarise.

Mac Pros and Power Macs

Apple's Pro towers weren't, surprisingly, the first Macs to be able to drive an extra display – that honour goes to the PowerBooks (see page 54). However, the expandable architecture of Apple's professional line – and their frequent use in photographic and video studios – makes them particularly suited to this kind of work.

The Power Mac G4 (Gigabit Ethernet), released in July 2000, was the first PowerMac to have the option of a graphics card capable of running an extra display in Extended Desktop mode. That graphics card was the 32MB ATI Radeon, and it appeared only in certain models. The next time this ability appeared in ▶

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Any Mac capable of supporting an external monitor (see text)
- A TV or external monitor
- Cables and adaptors (as necessary) to connect your Mac to the external display

QUICK TIP

Use your laptop Mac as a substitute for a desktop Mac

If you have a PowerBook G4, MacBook or MacBook Pro, you can use it like a desktop Mac: connect an external display, keyboard and mouse, and close the lid. Next, reawaken the Mac by using the keyboard or mouse. When you're done, put the laptop to sleep and disconnect the display; the next time you open the lid your Mac will operate as normal.

Apple's list of pre-built desktop Macs was in the Power Mac G4 (Quicksilver) incorporating a 64MB GeForce 2 MX TwinView graphics card, in July 2001.

With the next generation of Power Mac G4 Quicksilver towers, released in January 2002, Apple introduced multiple display support across the entire range of Power Macs. After this point, all of Apple's professional Macs have this ability out of the box, so if you're on the lookout for a second-hand machine this might be something to bear in mind.

But more than any other Mac, the Pro towers have had a variety of monitor connectors, from the industry-standard (VGA and DVI) to the proprietary and short-lived (ADC). We've more on this (and what you'll need to get everything connected) in the box below.

Intel iMacs

All Intel iMacs are capable of using an external display for both video mirroring and Extended Desktop. If you have one, take a look round the back and you'll see a small, rectangular port with the display icon next to it: this is a mini-DVI (digital) connector. In order to connect this to an external display, you'll need to get hold of one of the adaptor cables made by Apple, each of which costs around £15: to convert from mini-DVI to standard DVI you'll need the cable with the Apple part number M9321G/A, for mini-DVI to VGA you'll need M9320G/A, or for S-Video you'll need M9319G/A. Incidentally, it's much easier to search for and order such easily confused items using the manufacturer's part number: that way there's no ambiguity about what you're looking for.

If you've got a Power Mac G4 you can still connect an external monitor with no problems.

Mac displays are of a very high quality – adding a second one just gives you more room to play with.

> "All Intel iMacs are capable of using an external display for both video mirroring and extended desktop"

PowerPC iMacs

There are still, let's face it, a lot of PowerPC (G3, G4 and G5) Macs around, and the good news is that all G4 and G5 iMacs had a port for an external monitor – this time, a mini-VGA (analogue) connector. However, these models were capable only of mirroring the Mac's display via an external monitor or projector. However, it's still a useful option for those occasions when, for instance, you'd like to share an *iPhoto* slideshow with family members, or give a presentation using a projector.

In order to hook up your G4 or G5 iMac you'll need one of the mini-VGA convertor cables made by Apple, and priced at around £15: for mini-VGA to VGA you'll need the cable with Apple part number M8639G/A, while for mini-VGA to S-Video and Composite conversion duties you'll need M9109G/A.

We haven't so far mentioned the humble G3 iMac. In fact, it might come as a surprise that even this venerable model came, in some versions, with an external VGA connector. It was, admittedly, cunningly hidden – beneath a removable flap towards the rear underside of the iMac – but it was there, and capable of mirroring the Mac's display on an external monitor. And which versions had the external connector? Well, if your G3 iMac has a processor speed of 400MHz or higher, you almost certainly have a model that's capable of driving an external monitor. If you're not sure what speed processor you have, click the Apple icon at the top-left of the screen and select **About This Mac**. Another giveaway is to check the original accessories kit (if you still have it): models with an external VGA port had an

FRONT ROW SEATS

Macs have come closer than ever to being the digital media hub envisaged by Steve Jobs just before the iPod launched in 2000. The problem used to be organising and playing all those files: launching *iTunes* for your music, *iPhoto* for your slideshows and so on. But *Front Row*, announced in October 2005, offers a solution.

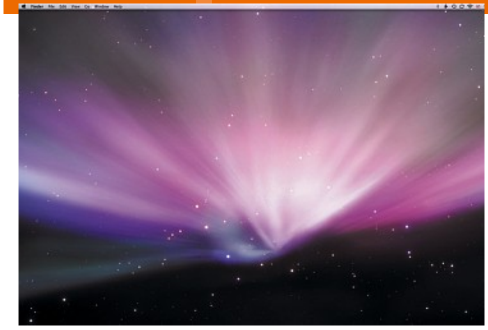
If your Mac came with Apple's rather snazzy little remote, you can launch *Front Row* by pressing its **Menu** button. If you don't have the remote, hit ⌘+[esc] on your Mac's keyboard instead.

A larger screen is pretty much essential when using *Front Row*. Even if you use it mainly to play tracks from *iTunes*, the album artwork looks so much better.

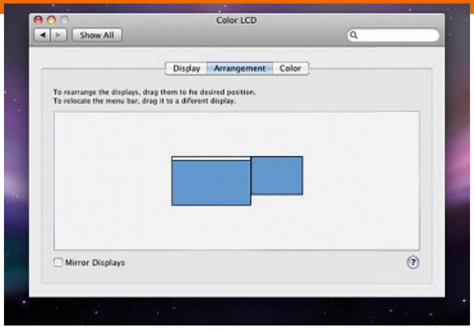
You might even want to think about investing in Apple TV, Apple's standalone device that allows you to rent or buy HD movies from *iTunes*, access YouTube videos, and view Flickr and MobileMe web galleries – not to mention viewing them through your HD TV. You can also bring your Mac to the party (using AirPort) to access your personal digital media files. Currently, Apple TV costs around £199 for the version with a 40GB hard disk, and £269 if you'd rather have 160GB of hard disk space.

Front Row
Movies
TV Shows
Music
Podcasts
Photos
Settings
Sources

STEP BY STEP Getting started with video mirroring

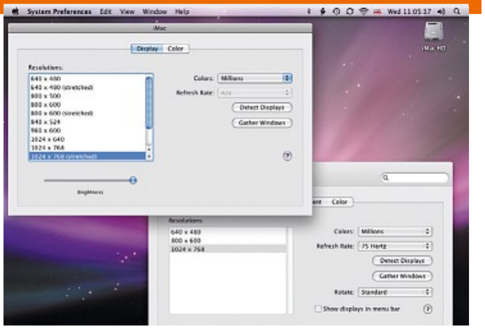


01 First, check the capabilities of your Mac, either using our guide or your Mac's manual: if you don't have a manual, those for all recent Macs are available from **http://support.apple.com/en_US/manuals**. Before you connect the second monitor, make sure that you can set it to the same resolution and colour depth as your Mac.


Color LCD
Show All
Display
Arrangement
Color
Mirror Displays

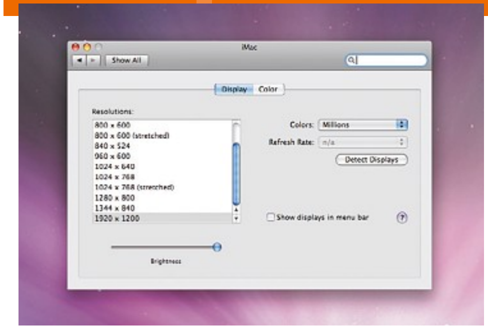
To rearrange the displays, drag them to the desired position.
To relocate the menu bar, drag it to a different display.

02 Open System Preferences > Displays, then connect the external monitor. The Mac's display will flicker for a second, and when the **Display** pane reappears, there should be an extra tab (**Arrangement**). Click this tab and tick next to **Mirror Displays**. Click **Detect Displays** (under the **Display** tab) to try again if it's not recognised at first.

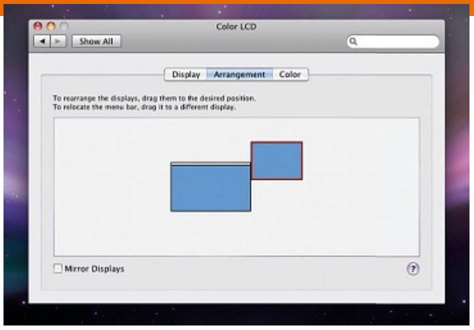

System Preferences
iMac
Display
Color
Resolutions:
Colors:
Millions
Refresh Rate:
Detect Displays
Gather Windows
Brightness
Rotate:
Standard
Show displays in menu bar

03 Now, whatever you do on your main screen will also be seen on the second display. It's a good idea to check that both displays are set to the same resolution and colour depth (though this usually happens automatically). If one monitor is widescreen, you might need to set it to a 'stretched' resolution; for example, 1,024x768 (stretched).

STEP BY STEP Extending your Mac Desktop with a second monitor

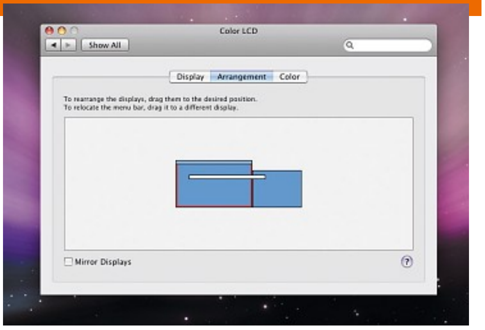

iMac
Show All
Display
Color
Resolutions:
800 x 600
800 x 600 (stretched)
840 x 524
960 x 600
1024 x 640
1024 x 768
1024 x 768 (stretched)
1280 x 800
1344 x 840
1920 x 1200
Colors:
Millions
Refresh Rate:
n/a
Detect Displays
Show displays in menu bar
Brightness

01 Extending the Mac Desktop allows you to stretch your workspace across screens, which is especially handy if you're getting into an application such as *Photoshop Elements*, which can make for a crowded Desktop. To do this, first connect the extra monitor to your Mac. Next, open System Preferences > Display, and click on **Arrangement**.


Color LCD
Show All
Display
Arrangement
Color
Mirror Displays

To rearrange the displays, drag them to the desired position.
To relocate the menu bar, drag it to a different display.

02 Your extended Desktop now starts at one edge of your main display, and continues onto the other one, like a single large screen; The settings in the **Arrangement** tab enable you to reposition the second screen to start at the left, right, top or bottom of your main screen. To do this, simply drag the icons to the desired position.


Color LCD
Show All
Display
Arrangement
Color
Mirror Displays

To rearrange the displays, drag them to the desired position.
To relocate the menu bar, drag it to a different display.

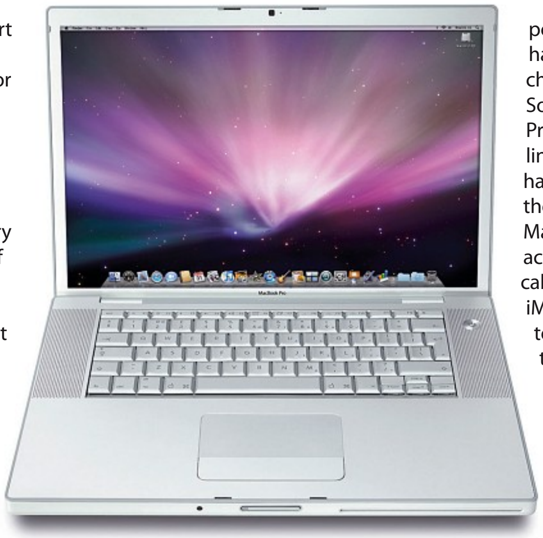
03 In some cases, you might want your second display to become your main screen: for instance, if you have a large, high-resolution monitor attached to a MacBook, or MacBook Pro. To achieve this, go to **Arrangement** and drag the representation of the menu bar (the horizontal white strip) from one display to the other.

additional, slot-in cover for that part of the case, with a cut-out from which the VGA cable and connector could protrude.

Intel laptops: MacBook and MacBook Pro

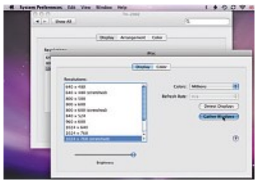
By the time the MacBook Pro and MacBook were launched, in January and May 2006 respectively, both of Apple's laptop lines had long been able to drive external monitors. Also, both are capable of using that external display for video mirroring and extending the Desktop. Moreover, since the launch of Apple's first Intel-powered laptops, their specifications have (so far, at any rate) not changed in either of those respects. So, for the time being, the MacBook Pro has an industry standard, dual-link DVI connector, and the MacBook has the same mini-DVI connector as the Intel iMac. If you have a MacBook, then, you'll need to acquire one or more of the adaptor cables we mentioned for the current iMac above. If you're lucky enough to own a MacBook Pro, you can use the same standard cables and connectors that you would for a desktop Mac.

Of course, a summary of the capabilities of Apple's current range of laptops wouldn't be complete without mention of



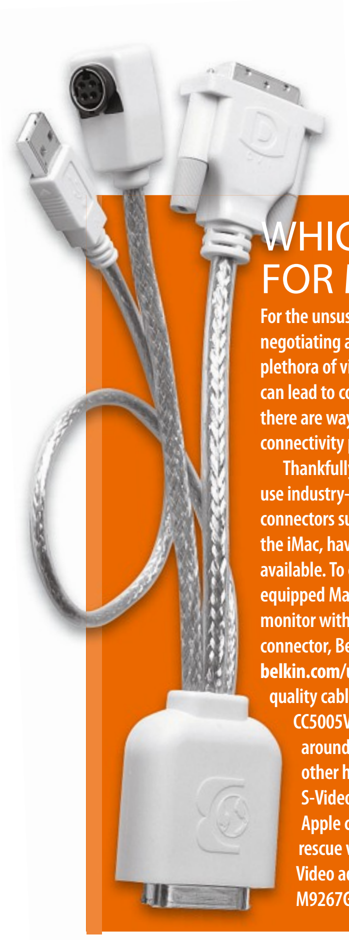
A MacBook Pro sports a full-size DVI connector for digital screen output.

QUICK TIP



Gather Windows

Not sure which window is on what display? Go to System Preferences > Display, and click on **Gather Windows**. All open windows will now appear on the main screen.



WHICH CABLE DO I NEED FOR MY MAC?

For the unsuspecting, negotiating a path through the plethora of video connectors can lead to confusion. Luckily, there are ways round most connectivity problems.

Thankfully, all current Macs use industry-standard video connectors such as DVI – or, like the iMac, have adaptors readily available. To connect your DVI-equipped Mac to an HD TV, or a monitor with an HDMI connector, Belkin (**www.belkin.com/uk**) makes a high quality cable (part code CC5005VED10-G) for around £25. If, on the other hand, you need S-Video or Composite, Apple comes to the rescue with its DVI to Video adaptor (part code M9267G/A), priced at £15.

For those with Power Macs built between January 2001 and June 2005 (not to mention the short-lived Cube) there's an additional complication: ADC. ADC – short for Apple Display Connector – started with an excellent premise: combine DVI video, USB and power into a single cable, with a single connector, thereby saving cable clutter. Unfortunately, there were no takers other than Apple, so the idea disappeared.

If you get hold of a second-hand Apple flat-panel display with an ADC connector, you'll need something like the now discontinued Dr Bott DVIator (**www.drbott.com**) to connect it to a DVI-equipped Mac. Try thr adaptor by Formac (**www.formac.co.uk**), priced at £25 (part code KA8010).

QUICK TIP

Mac mini goes large

If you have a Mac mini, you needn't be left out when it comes to adding extra screen acreage. With the See2 USB 2.0 – VGA converter (priced around £70) from **www.trittontechnologies.com**, you can add a VGA port to your mini. There's also a DVI version – the See2 Extreme – which includes a DVI – VGA adaptor.

The MacBook Air, despite its beautifully small size, will still drive an external monitor up to 1,920x1,200 pixels.

the new kid on the block, the MacBook Air. Like its MacBook cousin, its graphics capabilities are incorporated into its motherboard chipset; by contrast, the MacBook Pro has a separate graphics card, with a dedicated processor (sometimes referred to as a Graphics Processing Unit, or GPU) and memory.

Despite this, the MacBook Air is still capable of video mirroring and extending its Desktop via a second monitor. However, because of restrictions of space, the Air uses a new, proprietary display connector developed by Apple, called Micro-DVI. Thankfully, the MacBook Air ships with a Micro-DVI – VGA adaptor (for which Apple's part number is MB203G/A); also available are Micro-DVI – DVI (MB204G/A) and Micro-DVI – S-Video or Composite (MB202G/A) versions, each priced at exactly £15.

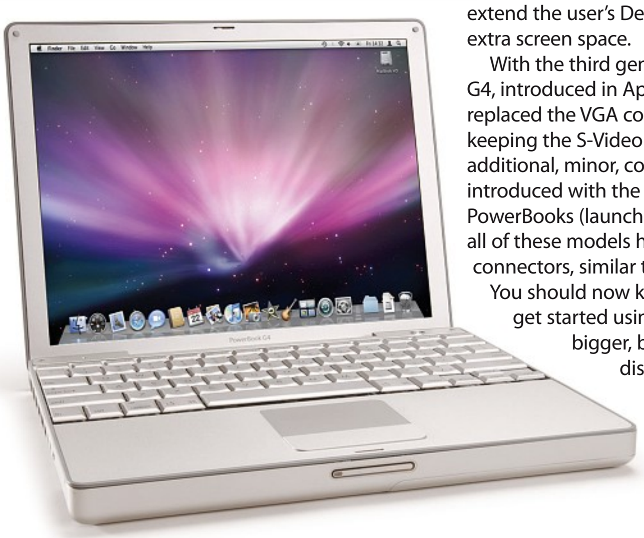
PowerPC laptops (PowerBook and iBook)

Like the PowerPC iMacs, the iBooks took a while to acquire an external video port, and even then could offer only display mirroring: though, since many laptops are used for presentations using projectors, this restriction at least makes some sense. The first iBook to have a video port was the second-generation model – which was also the first to have FireWire – launched in September 2000. Those first models had yet another proprietary, space-saving connector, usually referred to simply as the A/V port.

If you don't already have one, you can still get hold of the adaptor cable that provides an S-Video or Composite signal directly to a TV: its Apple part code is M8434G/A, and it costs around £15.

From the May 2000 iteration of the iBook through to the launch of the MacBook in May 2006, Apple provided a mini-VGA port for laptop connection to an external display. You can find the details of all the cable connections you'll need in our special section on the PowerPC iMac, beginning on page 52.

> "The MacBook Air is capable of video mirroring and extending its desktop via a second monitor"



The loveable 12-inch PowerBook came with a mini-DVI connector for extended displays.

PowerBook

Finally, we come to Apple's professional laptop, the PowerBook. Before the second generation G3 PowerBook (usually referred to as the PowerBook G3 Series, after the designation on the lower part of the display bezel), PowerBooks had some variant of Apple's proprietary HDI-15 video connector, if they had one at all. It makes sense, therefore, to begin with the PowerBook G3 Series.

With this model, launched in May 1998, Apple included both VGA and S-Video connectors, though it was capable only of display mirroring. Skip ahead a couple of generations, to the model sometimes referred to as the Lombard (after its development codename) or (because of its translucent, bronze-coloured keyboard) the PowerBook G3 (Bronze Keyboard), and the PowerBooks acquired the ability to extend the user's Desktop across the extra screen space.

With the third generation PowerBook G4, introduced in April 2002, Apple replaced the VGA connector with DVI, keeping the S-Video output. An additional, minor, complication was introduced with the 12-inch screen PowerBooks (launched in January 2003): all of these models had mini-DVI connectors, similar to the Intel iMacs.

You should now know all you need to get started using your Mac with a bigger, brighter, external display. However you want to use it, we hope you enjoy the extra space!

Trevor Middleton

www.macupgrades.co.uk

Call our team of upgrade experts on 01223 833412

Larger, better, faster, smarter. More RAM, bigger hard drives, guaranteed compatibility - upgrade today with MacUpgrades.

Mac Pro

NEW LOWER PRICES

Memory Upgrades

Early MacPro (Pre Jan08)

Kingston 2GB (2 x 1GB) Kit 667MHz £68.61 + Vat
Kingston 4GB (2 x 2GB) Kit 667MHz £97.92 + Vat
Kingston 8GB (4x 2GB) Kit 667MHz £184.23 + Vat
Kingston 16GB (8 x 2GB) Kit 667MHz £356.84 + Vat

New MacPro (Post Jan08)

Kingston 2GB (2 x 1GB) Kit 800MHz £73.31 + Vat
Kingston 4GB (2 x 2GB) Kit 800MHz £110.92 + Vat
Kingston 8GB (2 x 4GB) Kit 800MHz £381.94 + Vat
Kingston 16GB (8 x 2GB) Kit 800MHz £404.23 + Vat

Internal Hard Drives

NEW LOWER PRICES

Hitachi 500GB 16MB cache £51.15 + Vat
Seagate 750GB 16MB cache £92.77 + Vat
Hitachi 1TB 32MB cache £121.50 + Vat

iBook G4 / PowerBook G4

Memory Upgrades

Kingston 1GB SODIMM £43.83+ Vat
Kingston 512MB SODIMM £22.72 + Vat

Internal Hard Drives

NEW LOWER PRICES

Seagate 5400RPM 120GB £38.00 + Vat
Hitachi 5400RPM 120GB £37.25 + Vat
Seagate 5400RPM 160GB £43.39 + Vat
West Dig 5400RPM 250GB £64.21 + Vat

MACFORMAT READER OFFER

FREE delivery on all orders over £50. Simply enter MF1128 at the checkout.

MacBook & MacBook Pro

Memory Upgrades

Kingston 1GB PC5300 SODIMM £16.67 + Vat
Kingston 2GB PC5300 SODIMM £28.45 + Vat

Internal Hard Drives

Macbook & Macbook Pro 15/17

NEW LOWER PRICES

Seagate Momentus 5400RPM 160GB £45.60 + Vat
Western Digital 5400RPM 250GB £54.32 + Vat
Western Digital 5400RPM 320GB £71.12 + Vat
Seagate Momentus 7200RPM 250GB £67.58 + Vat
Seagate Momentus 7200RPM 320GB £80.65 + Vat

Macbook Pro 17 ONLY

Hitachi 400GB 5400RPM 8MB £146.93 + Vat
Hitachi 500GB 5400RPM 8MB £159.23 + Vat

iMac G5 / Intel iMac

Memory Upgrades

Kingston iMac Intel 1GB £16.67 + Vat
Kingston iMac Intel 2GB £28.45 + Vat
Kingston iMac G5 (iSight) 2GB £27.63 + Vat
Kingston iMac G5 1GB £27.58 + Vat

Internal Hard Drives

NEW LOWER PRICES

Hitachi 500GB 16MB cache £51.15 + Vat
Seagate 750GB 16MB cache £92.77 + Vat
Hitachi 1TB 32MB cache £121.50 + Vat

Trading Divisions of Second Chance PC Limited
Lower Court 2, Copley Hill Business Park,
Babraham, CB2 4AF 01223 833412 E & OE

2nd Chance PC

www.laptopessentials.co.uk
www.mp3essentials.co.uk
www.appcentre.co.uk
www.macupgrades.co.uk

Run Windows in a window!

Want to run Windows on your Mac? Don't fancy constantly rebooting? You need VirtualBox

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Any version of Mac OS X
- *VirtualBox* (on the disc)
- A licensed copy of another OS (for example, Windows Vista, Ubuntu Linux)

Mac FORMAT On the disc

You'll find *VirtualBox* on this issue's disc.

Third-party software that allows you to run other operating systems on a Mac is nothing new – in fact, it followed the Mac itself by only a few years, in 1988. That first product was called *SoftPC*, by Insignia Solutions. It ran on System 6.0, and for your money you got to run MS-DOS on your Mac. Yes, that's right, MS-DOS. If you wanted Windows you had to buy Windows. Then again, Windows had only been around since 1985, anyway.

Because of the different hardware used in Macs, *SoftPC* had a bit of an uphill task to perform. First, it had to take the machine code (the basic set of instructions executed by a processor) used by one, and translate it into that used by the other, a process called emulation. Only then could it set up a separate working environment – called a virtual machine – for running the new OS (called the guest OS). This way of working made emulation a very slow way of running Windows on your Mac.

> "VirtualBox allows you to run Windows, and other operating systems, at the same time as Mac OS X"

There was an alternative: some Macs could run Windows through hardware using Apple's PC Compatibility Card. This slot-in option had a separate processor, which did away with the need for hardware emulation and gave more speed, but at a price: around £800 (1995 prices) when a new Mac would set you back £2,000!

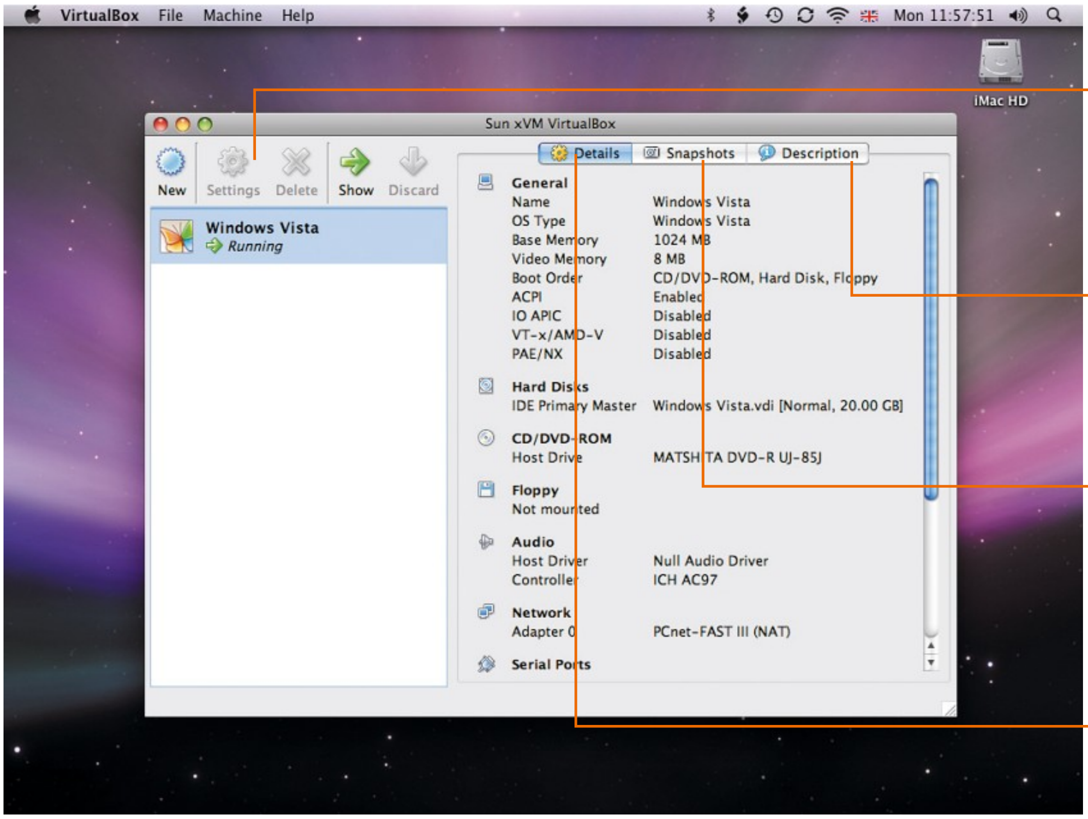
SoftPC later came bundled with Windows – as *SoftWindows* – as did its rival *VirtualPC* by Connectix, which was launched in 1997. Though they went on into the Mac OS X era, neither product made the transition to Intel processors.

Which brings us to *VirtualBox* (from **www.virtualbox.com**). Like *Parallels Desktop* (£25, from **www.parallels.com**), and VMWare *Fusion* (£40, from **www.vmware.com/products/fusion**), it allows you to run Windows, and other operating systems, at the same time as Mac OS X. Better still, as both Macs and most PCs now use the same Intel processors, there's no need for emulation – meaning your virtual machine runs much quicker.

We have a guide to installing *VirtualBox* below – and you'll find it on this issue's disc.

Trevor Middleton

TOP FEATURES | A quick look at VirtualBox



General
Name Windows Vista
OS Type Windows Vista
Base Memory 1024 MB
Video Memory 8 MB
Boot Order CD/DVD-ROM, Hard Disk, Floppy
ACPI Enabled
IO APIC Disabled
VT-x/AMD-V Disabled
PAE/NX Disabled

Hard Disks
IDE Primary Master Windows Vista.vdi [Normal, 20.00 GB]

CD/DVD-ROM
Host Drive MATSHITA DVD-R UJ-85J

Floppy
Not mounted

Audio
Host Driver Null Audio Driver
Controller ICH AC97

Network
Adapter 0 PCnet-FAST III (NAT)

Serial Ports

Toolbar

Use the toolbar buttons to create or delete a virtual machine, alter the settings in your current one, or start up your guest OS.

Description

Allows you to make notes on the configuration of your guest OS, the software you've installed, and so on, for later reference.

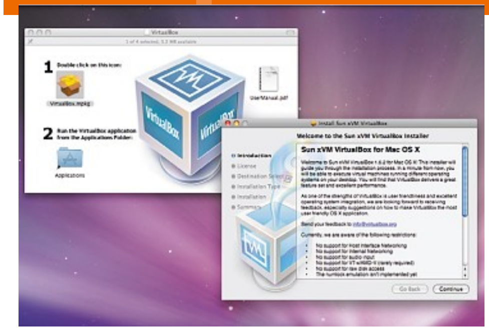
Snapshots

Take snapshots of your virtual machine so that you can easily restore it to a prior state if you have problems.

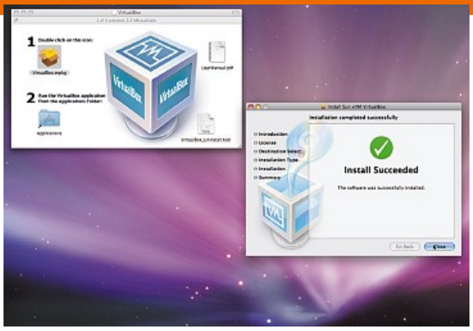
Details

Summarises the current state of your virtual machine. This simple, at-a-glance guide lets you see exactly what's happening and aids troubleshooting.

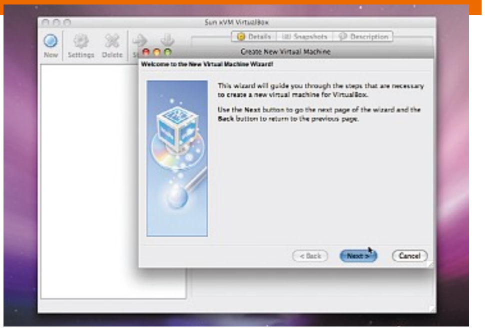
STEP BY STEP Setting up VirtualBox with Windows Vista Home Premium


1 Double click on this icon:
2 Run the VirtualBox application from the Applications Folder:
Install Sun xVM VirtualBox
Welcome to the Sun xVM VirtualBox Installer
Sun xVM VirtualBox for Mac OS X
Go Back
Continue

01 There are two versions of *VirtualBox*, both of which are free for personal use. The open source version lacks USB support, so we're using the pre-built version from **http://tinyurl.com/4mbg6l**. Double-click the disk image, then double-click the installer icon. When prompted, confirm that you want to continue, then do the same again.


1 Double click on this icon:
2 Run the VirtualBox application from the Applications Folder:
Install Sun xVM VirtualBox
Installation completed successfully
Install Succeeded
The software was successfully installed.
Go Back
Close

02 Once you've confirmed that you agree to the licensing terms, click **Install**, and the installation process will continue. This should only take a couple of minutes; if it's been successful you'll see a dialog box confirming this. Click the **Close** button and you're ready to begin installing your new guest OS in *VirtualBox*!


Sun xVM VirtualBox

Create New Virtual Machine

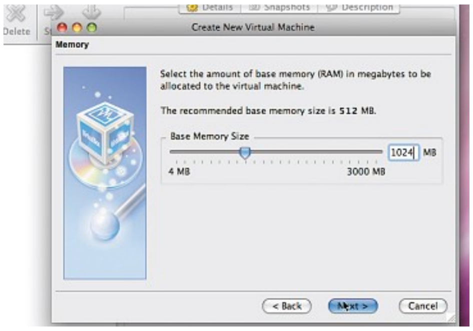
Welcome to the New Virtual Machine Wizard!

This wizard will guide you through the steps that are necessary to create a new virtual machine for VirtualBox.

Use the Next button to go the next page of the wizard and the Back button to return to the previous page.

New
Settings
Delete
Details
Snapshots
Description
< Back
Next >
Cancel

03 Launch *VirtualBox* from the **Applications** folder on your Mac. First you'll be prompted to register; don't forget to put a tick in the checkbox if you don't want to be contacted. When the settings window appears, click on the **New** button in the top left-hand corner, in order to start the **Create New Virtual Machine** wizard.


Create New Virtual Machine

Memory

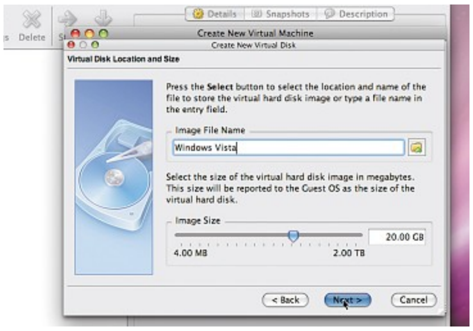
Select the amount of base memory (RAM) in megabytes to be allocated to the virtual machine.

The recommended base memory size is 512 MB.

Base Memory Size: 1024 MB (4 MB – 3000 MB)

Delete
Details
Snapshots
Description
< Back
Next >
Cancel

04 When the **VM Name and OS Type** window appears, type a name for the virtual machine in the **Name** field; for instance, Windows Vista. Next, choose the guest operating system in the **OS Type** pop-up menu. Click **Next**, and you'll move on to the **Memory** settings. Most modern operating systems need plenty of memory, so we think you should allocate at least 1GB to your guest OS.


Create New Virtual Machine

Create New Virtual Disk

Virtual Disk Location and Size

Press the **Select** button to select the location and name of the file to store the virtual hard disk image or type a file name in the entry field.

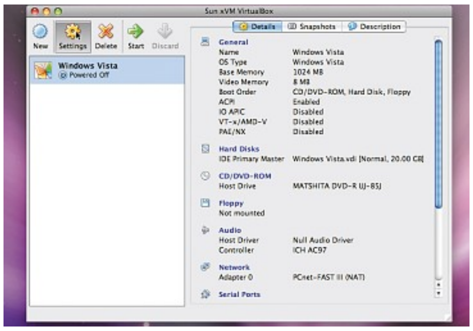
Image File Name: Windows Vista

Select the size of the virtual hard disk image in megabytes. This size will be reported to the Guest OS as the size of the virtual hard disk.

Image Size: 20.00 GB (4.00 MB – 2.00 TB)

Delete
Details
Snapshots
Description
< Back
Next >
Cancel

05 Click **Next** to move on to the **Virtual Hard Disk** window. At present, we haven't any HD space allocated to our virtual machine, so we'll do that next. Click **New…** to start the **Create New Virtual Disk** wizard. Use the radio buttons to choose whether you want the virtual disk to have a fixed size or you want it to expand according to its contents (**Dynamically expanding image**).


Sun xVM VirtualBox

Windows Vista
Powered Off

General
Name: Windows Vista
OS Type: Windows Vista
Base Memory: 1024 MB
Video Memory: 8 MB
Boot Order: CD/DVD-ROM, Hard Disk, Floppy
ACPI: Enabled
IO APIC: Disabled
VT-x/AMD-V: Disabled
PAE/NX: Disabled

Hard Disks
IDE Primary Master: Windows Vista.vdi [Normal, 20.00 GB]

CD/DVD-ROM
Host Drive: MATSHITA DVD-R UJ-85J

Floppy
Not mounted

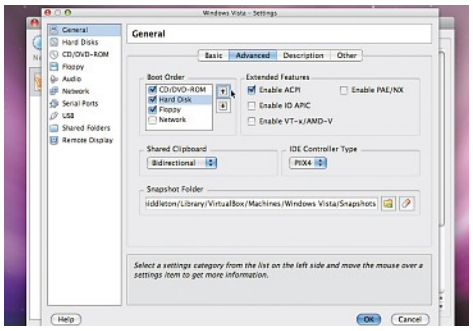
Audio
Host Driver: Null Audio Driver
Controller: ICH AC97

Network
Adapter 0: PCnet-FAST III (NAT)

Serial Ports

New
Settings
Delete
Start
Discard
Details
Snapshots
Description

06 Once you're happy with the hard disk settings, click **Finish**, and you'll be taken back to the **Virtual Hard Disk** window. This time, the virtual disk you've just created will be in the **Boot Hard Disk (Primary Master)** menu. Click **Next** and you'll be taken to a window displaying a summary of your virtual machine's properties. Click on the **Settings** button in the toolbar.


Windows Vista - Settings

General

Boot Order
☑ CD/DVD-ROM
☑ Hard Disk
☑ Floppy
☐ Network

Extended Features
☑ Enable ACPI
☐ Enable PAE/NX
☐ Enable IO APIC
☐ Enable VT-x/AMD-V

Shared Clipboard: Bidirectional

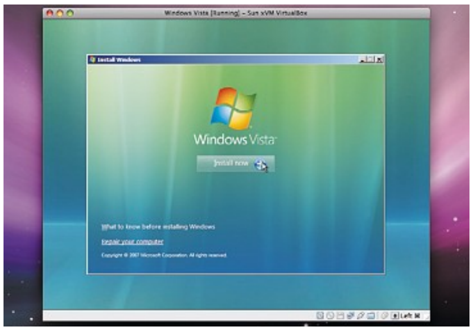
IDE Controller Type: PIIX4

Snapshot Folder: iddleton/Library/VirtualBox/Machines/Windows Vista/Snapshots

Select a settings category from the list on the left side and move the mouse over a settings item to get more information.

General
Hard Disks
CD/DVD-ROM
Floppy
Audio
Network
Serial Ports
USB
Shared Folders
Remote Display
Basic
Advanced
Description
Other
Help
OK
Cancel

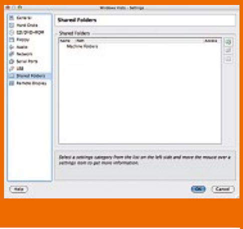
07 As the virtual machine is currently set up, USB and audio support are turned off, and the Mac's optical drive won't mount in the virtual environment. Fortunately, it's simple to change these settings: in the sidebar, click on **General**, then on the **Advanced** tab. In the **Boot Order** list, select **CD/DVD-ROM**, and use the up arrow next to the list to move this item to the top.


Windows Vista [Running] - Sun xVM VirtualBox
Install Windows
Windows Vista
Install now
What to know before installing Windows
Repair your computer

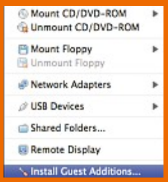
08 Next, make sure that **Hard Disk** is second in the **Boot Order** list, then change the rest of the settings as follows: in **CD/DVD-ROM**, enable **Mount CD/DVD Drive**; in **USB**, place a tick in the checkboxes next to **Enable USB Controller** and **Enable USB 2.0 Controller**. When you're done, click **OK** to close the setting, pop in the installation disc for your guest OS, and away you go! ●

TOOL SCHOOL

Once you have the *Guest Additions* installed (see Expert Tip, below), you can set up a shared folder on your Mac that can be accessed from within the guest OS.


Windows Vista - Settings
Shared Folders
Help
OK
Cancel

EXPERT TIP


Mount CD/DVD-ROM
Unmount CD/DVD-ROM
Mount Floppy
Unmount Floppy
Network Adapters
USB Devices
Shared Folders…
Remote Display
Install Guest Additions…

Installing *Guest Additions* (from Devices > Install Guest Additions…) allows you to get more out of *VirtualBox*, including having Mac and guest OS windows side by side on the Desktop (Seamless Windows).

Listen to Wikipedia articles

Use Speakapedia to convert Wikipedia articles into spoken word to listen to on the move

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- *Speakapedia* (on the disc)
- Apple *iTunes* (free, **www.apple.com/itunes**)
- A web connection
- Mac OS X 10.5 (£85, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)

Mac FORMAT On the disc

You'll find a *Speakapedia* trial on this issue's disc

Wikipedia is one of a tiny handful of sites that most web users will have visited at some point. It's a vast repository of information, akin to an online encyclopaedia, and although its accuracy is sometimes debatable (its articles are composed and edited by the general public), there can be no debating that it contains a wealth of knowledge unsurpassed by any other website.

Chances are, if there's a subject you're interested in or a place you're planning to visit, there'll be a Wikipedia article about it, and although modern hardware enables you to experience the site on the move (such as on an iPhone), this is obviously restricted not only to those that have suitable hardware, but also to those who can use said hardware at any given moment. In other words, even if you have an iPhone, it's not a great idea to start reading a Wikipedia article about a place you're going to visit when you're belting towards it at 70mph on the M1.

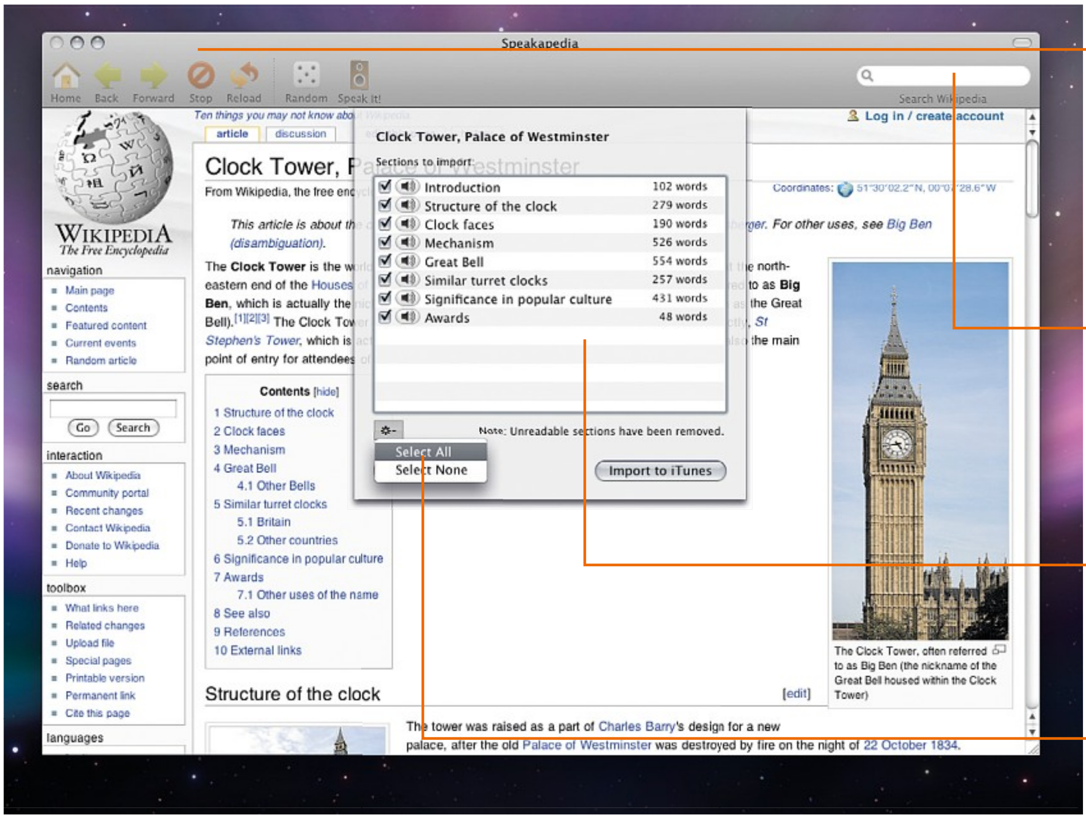
Speakapedia offers a novel way of opening up Wikipedia to the iPod generation. Via its streamlined and user-friendly interface, it enables you to convert Wikipedia articles into spoken word, taking advantage of your Mac's built-in speech capabilities. Articles are converted into albums, and each section becomes an individual track. Once the conversion is done, it's all transferred to *iTunes*, ready to be uploaded to an iPod or burned to a recordable CD.

Our tutorial shows how easy this is, and more about the application can be found at **www.shinydevelopment.com/speakapedia**. You'll also find the 14-day trial version of the software on our disc.

Craig Grannell

> "Speakapedia converts Wikipedia articles into spoken word, using your Mac's built-in speech capabilities"

TOP FEATURES | The key parts of Speakapedia


Speakapedia
Home
Back
Forward
Stop
Reload
Random
Speak It!
Search Wikipedia
Log in / create account
article
discussion
navigation
Main page
Contents
Featured content
Current events
Random article
search
Go
Search
interaction
About Wikipedia
Community portal
Recent changes
Contact Wikipedia
Donate to Wikipedia
Help
toolbox
What links here
Related changes
Upload file
Special pages
Printable version
Permanent link
Cite this page
languages
Select All
Select None
Import to iTunes

Clock Tower, Palace of Westminster

Sections to import:

		Section	Words
☑	🔊	Introduction	102 words
☑	🔊	Structure of the clock	279 words
☑	🔊	Clock faces	190 words
☑	🔊	Mechanism	526 words
☑	🔊	Great Bell	554 words
☑	🔊	Similar turret clocks	257 words
☑	🔊	Significance in popular culture	431 words
☑	🔊	Awards	48 words

Note: Unreadable sections have been removed.

Contents [hide]
1 Structure of the clock
2 Clock faces
3 Mechanism
4 Great Bell
4.1 Other Bells
5 Similar turret clocks
5.1 Britain
5.2 Other countries
6 Significance in popular culture
7 Awards
7.1 Other uses of the name
8 See also
9 References
10 External links

Structure of the clock [edit]

The tower was raised as a part of Charles Barry's design for a new palace, after the old Palace of Westminster was destroyed by fire on the night of 22 October 1834.

The Clock Tower, often referred to as Big Ben (the nickname of the Great Bell housed within the Clock Tower)

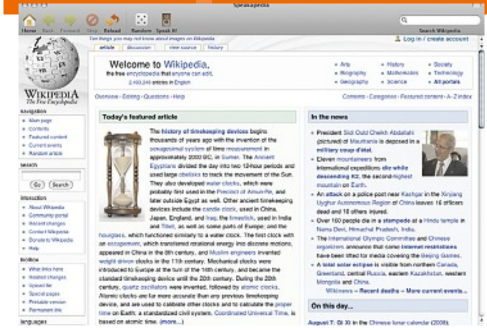
Toolbar
The toolbar along the top of *Speakapedia's* window offers various standard browser controls, just like *Safari*.

Searching
The **Search** field up in the top right-hand corner does exactly as it should: it enables you to find Wikipedia articles more rapidly.

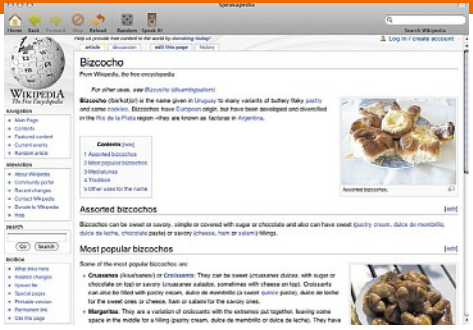
Speak It!
Use the handy **Speak It!** pane to define article sections for import. These can then be imported into *iTunes* for playing back.

Action menu
The **Action** menu can save you time, as it enables faster checking/unchecking of checkboxes when picking the articles to covert.

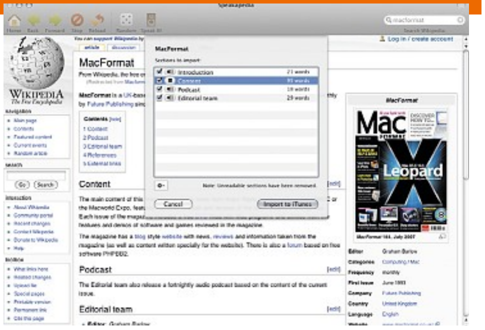
STEP BY STEP Turn Wikipedia articles into spoken word



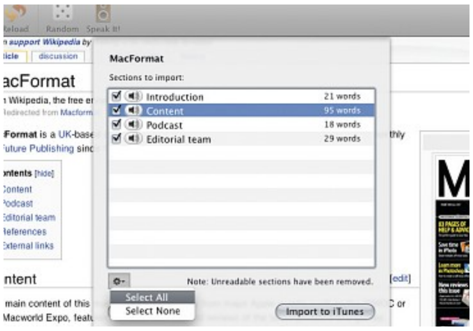
01 On launching *Speakapedia*, you're presented with the entry page for Wikipedia's English-language version. The view area under the toolbar works just like that of any other web browser (*Safari, Firefox*, et al), and you can navigate the site by clicking links, or using the **Search** field in Wikipedia's navigation area at the left-hand side of the page.



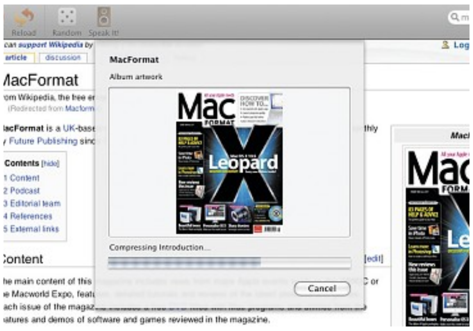
02 *Speakapedia*'s toolbar provides many buttons for navigation (**Home**, **Back**, **Forward**, etc.) and a **Search Wikipedia** field that mirrors the one within Wikipedia. One of the two more interesting buttons is in the second button set: click **Random** and you're sent to a random Wikipedia page, enabling you to learn new things, such as the delights of bizcocho.



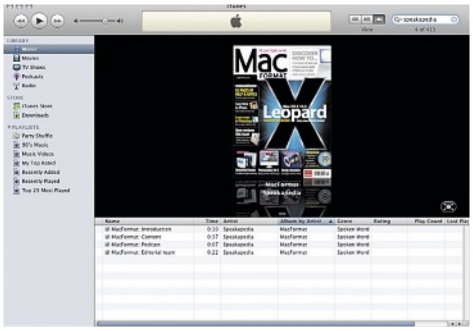
03 So, find yourself an article you'd like on your iPod, preferably one with an image. (We've chosen the *MacFormat* entry.) Click **Speak It!** and the article's sections will be listed, checkboxes to the side of each one. In each case, a word count is provided, and you can also preview each section's audio by clicking the relevant speaker button.



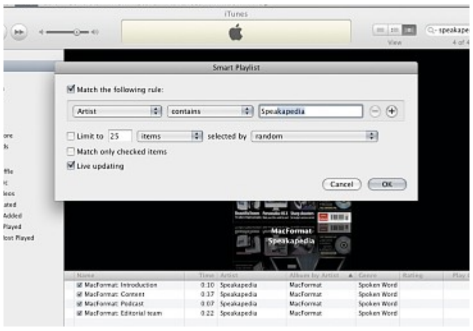
04 Use the checkboxes next to each section to determine which sections you'd like imported into *iTunes*. If you're working with a much larger article than the depicted one, and only want to import a few sections, use the **Action** menu to turn off all checkboxes (**Select None**) and then re-check the ones you're interested in.



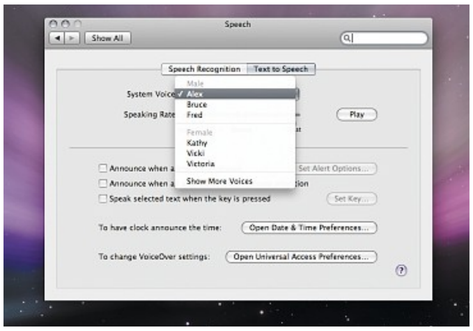
05 When happy with your selections, click **Import to iTunes**. The sheet will change to show a progress bar, detailing the podcast's creation and compression. If the article has artwork, you'll also be shown the image that will be used for the cover of the 'album' *Speakapedia* creates. Once done, an **Import successful!** image is shown.



06 Open *iTunes* and search for **Speakapedia**. You'll see the article you just imported, and if using **Cover Flow** or **Album** view, the artwork from the Wikipedia page will provide a visual indication of the article. In the track details, the album's name is that of the article, and the tracks take the form **Article name: Section heading**.



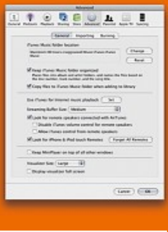
07 Because, by default, the artist name for all *Speakapedia* content is set as the name of the application, it's easy to create a Smart Playlist from your spoken-word Wikipedia articles. Go to File > New Smart Playlist and define a sole rule as shown. Click **OK** and you'll have a Smart Playlist containing all your articles.



08 By default, Leopard uses the impressive Alex system voice. However, if you want to change this, go to System Preferences > Speech > Text to Speech (also accessible via **Open System Speech Preferences** in *Speakapedia*'s own preferences). You can also define the speaking rate, if you find the default speed too fast or slow. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

If your *Speakapedia* albums aren't showing up when you search for them in *iTunes*, ensure Copy files to iTunes Music folder when adding to library is checked in the Advanced preferences in *iTunes*. Once done, check again and you should be able to find them.



EXPERT TIP

***Speakapedia* is drag-and-drop aware, so you can drag Wikipedia links from another browser's address bar, or web location files from *Finder* direct into the application for converting.**

Subscribe

and receive the Image Tricks Pro software

Subscribe today for just £14.98 every 3 months by Direct Debit, and you'll save 23% off the cover price and receive *Image Tricks Pro* as your welcome gift

Image Tricks Pro is an application for editing and generating images. It uses Mac OS X's Core Image filters to completely transform pictures with its advanced visual effects.

HURRY
STOCK LIMITED!
Available to the first 100 subscribers only!

How to subscribe…

1) To subscribe to *MacFormat*, save 23% off the cover price, and receive *Image Tricks Pro* as your welcome gift, call **0844 848 2852** quoting reference **P065**, or subscribe online at

www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/mfc/p065

2) To subscribe to *MacFormat*, save 36% off the cover price (you will not receive *Image Tricks Pro*) call **0844 848 2852** quoting reference **P066**, or subscribe online at

www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/mfc/p066

Lines open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 9:30pm, Saturdays 8:30am to 4:00pm.

HOW TO QUALIFY…

To qualify for this offer and to enable us to send you your unique serial number for *Image Tricks Pro*, you must provide your email address when subscribing.

*Terms & conditions

This offer is available to new UK subscribers paying by Direct Debit only. Minimum subscription term is 12 months. Your subscription will start with the next available issue. You will receive 13 issues per year. Details of the Direct Debit Guarantee are available on request. If at any time during the first 60 days you are dissatisfied in any way, please notify us in writing and we will refund you for all unmailed issues. Offer ends 15 October 2008.

to Mac FORMAT

SAVE UP TO 36% OFF THE COVER PRICE

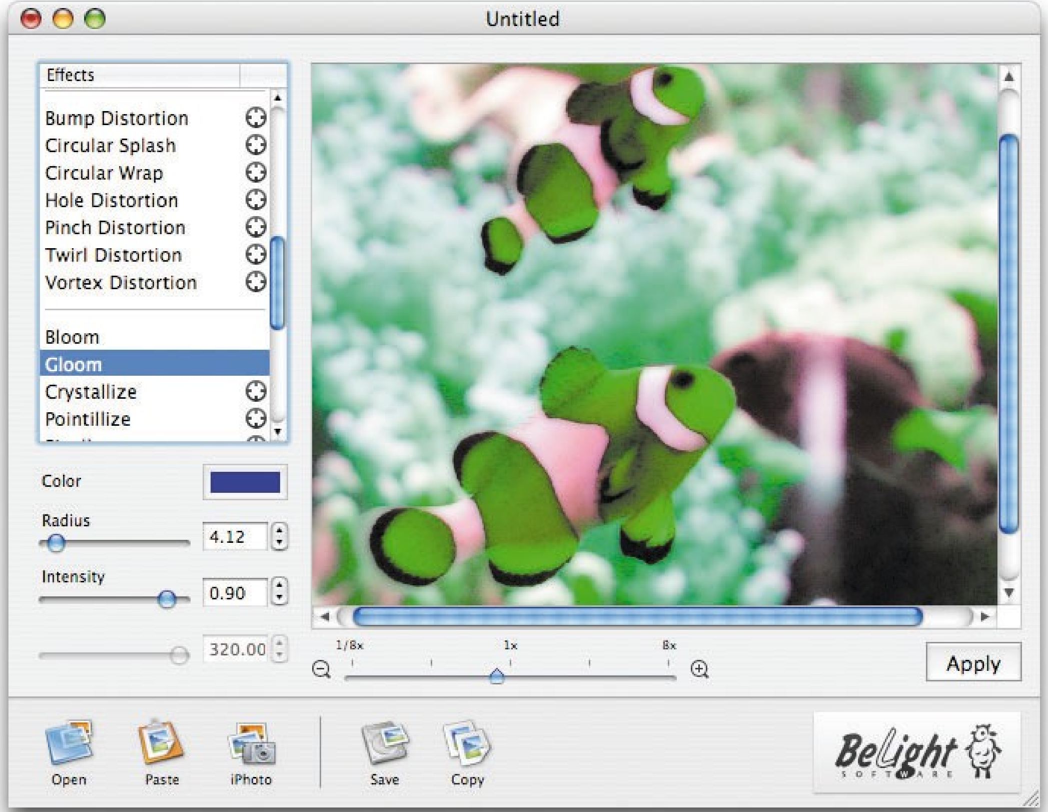
Magazine Week 2008
www.magazineweek.net 29 September – 5 October

Fantastic MacFormat subscription offer:

- Subscribe from as little as £14.98 every 3 months with our convenient Direct Debit offer
- Get your favourite magazine delivered direct to your door before it hits the newsstand
- Each issue comes with a disc packed full of Mac programs to install and enjoy!

READER OFFER

Download *Image Tricks* from the *MacFormat* disc and upgrade to *Image Tricks Pro* when you subscribe today.


Untitled
Effects
Bump Distortion
Circular Splash
Circular Wrap
Hole Distortion
Pinch Distortion
Twirl Distortion
Vortex Distortion
Bloom
Gloom
Crystallize
Pointillize
Color
Radius
4.12
Intensity
0.90
320.00
1/8x
1x
8x
Apply
Open
Paste
iPhoto
Save
Copy
BeLight SOFTWARE

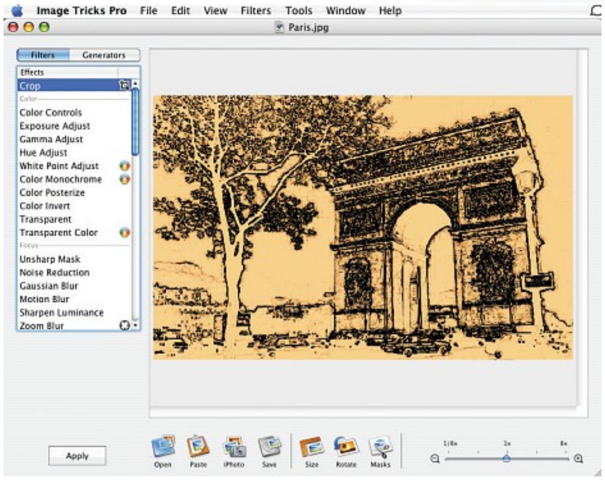


Image Tricks Pro
File
Edit
View
Filters
Tools
Window
Help
Paris.jpg
Filters
Generators
Effects
Crop
Color Controls
Exposure Adjust
Gamma Adjust
Hue Adjust
White Point Adjust
Color Monochrome
Color Posterize
Color Invert
Transparent
Transparent Color
Unsharp Mask
Noise Reduction
Gaussian Blur
Motion Blur
Sharpen Luminance
Zoom Blur
Apply
Open
Paste
iPhoto
Save
Size
Rotate
Masks

PRODUCT FEATURES...

- *Image Tricks Pro* has an easy-to-use and friendly interface.
- 63 Core Image effects and filters included (72 in *Pro* version).
- 12 image generators (19 in *Pro* version).
- Complete integration with Apple *iPhoto*.
- About 30 unique masks can be applied to an image with the software.
- Import over 20 image formats (TIFF, JPEG, GIF, PDF, EPS among them).
- There are several export options, including TIFF, JPEG, PDF, PNG and GIF formats.
- You can easily resize and rotate images by 90 degrees.
- OpenGL acceleration is supported.
- Universal Binary version allows you to run *Image Tricks* natively on both PowerPC and Intel-based Macs.

Shortcuts & timesavers

We show you how to do everyday things more quickly on your Mac…

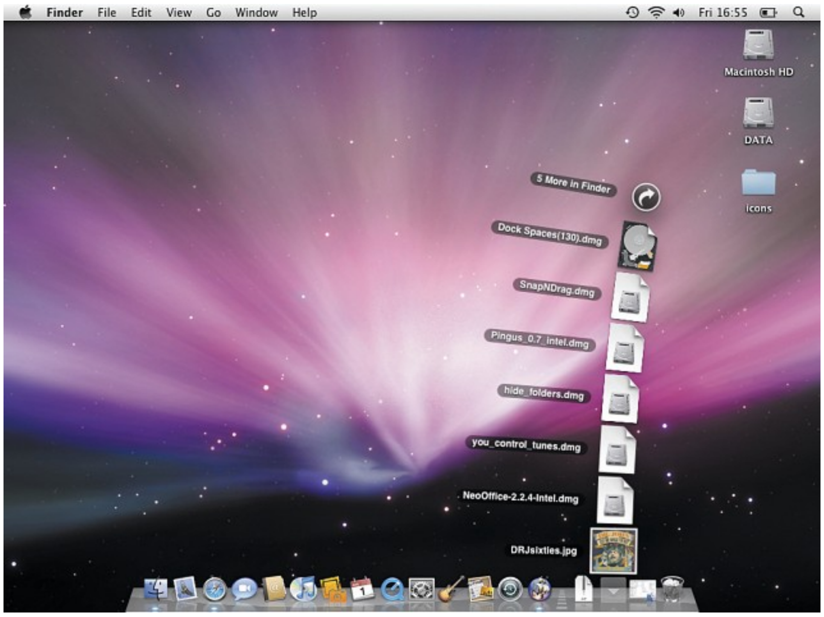
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

One of the best things about working with computers is getting them to do all the hard work for you. By this we mean processing a lot of files at once, multiple copying, batch editing of images and countless other things that would either be impossible or very time consuming to do any other way.

Apple has always paid particular attention to the usability of the Mac's GUI, or Graphical User Interface, taking into account usability when designing the way you move around it. Compare this to Windows with its wilfully obscure filenaming and hierarchy systems that seem still to be largely stuck in the world of computer programmers, and OS X looks even more futuristic.

It's hard to believe the work that has gone into providing ways to speed up common tasks on the Mac, and OS X, regardless of which version you have, is loaded with shortcuts for easier working once you've learnt them. The shortcuts are simple, but not always obvious, because they're hidden. It's surprising how many people use and love their Macs but aren't aware of the tips and tricks that will make their everyday computer use easier than it already is.

All it takes is a few simple pointers, and we've gathered the top ones here, so read on gentle reader and discover the tricks of the trade.


Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
Fri 16:55
Macintosh HD
DATA
icons
5 More in Finder
Dock Spaces(130).dmg
SnapNDrag.dmg
Pingus_0.7_intel.dmg
hide_folders.dmg
you_control_tunes.dmg
NeoOffice-2.2.4-Intel.dmg
DRJsixties.jpg

In Mac OS X 10.5, folders stored in the Dock can be viewed as Stacks, complete with handy icon previews.

Keyboard shortcuts

⌘+[Delete] with multiple selected: Send multiple items to Trash.

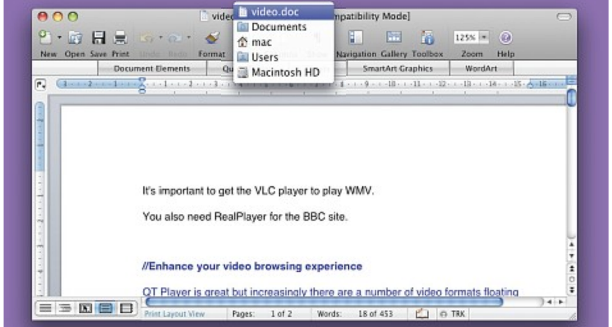
⌥+drag with multiple selected: Duplicate items.

Hold ⌘+⌥ while dragging a file onto an app in the Dock: Force open a document.

⌘+⌥+click on arrow in Column view: Open folder and its subfolders.

REVEAL LOCATION

Need to quickly find the location of the file you're working on, but not sure where it is? Click on the file's name in its title bar while holding the ⌘ key so a list appears, which shows you exactly where it lives on your Mac's hard drive. You will get a breakdown of which folder it is in relative to the hard drive. Try it in a program like *Word* or *TextEdit*, for example. The same also works in *Safari* except when you ⌘+click on the title bar, you see your URL relative to the main site address.


video.doc
Documents
mac
Users
Macintosh HD
patibility Mode]
New Open Save Print Undo Redo Format
Navigation Gallery Toolbox Zoom Help
125%
Document Elements
SmartArt Graphics
WordArt
Print Layout View
Pages: 1 of 2
Words: 18 of 453
TRK

It's important to get the VLC player to play WMV.

You also need RealPlayer for the BBC site.

//Enhance your video browsing experience

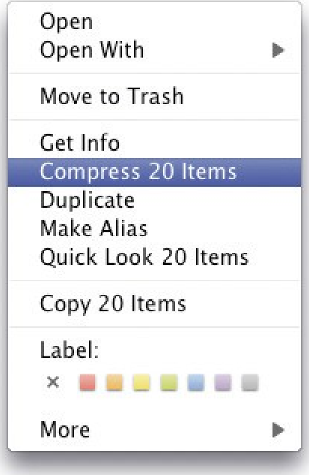
QT Player is great but increasingly there are a number of video formats floating

In many apps, holding the ⌘ key while clicking on a document's title bar reveals its location.

Multiple select

In *Finder*, you can select multiple files and folders by holding down the ⌘ or ⇧ keys as you click with the mouse. This also lets you select non-continuous items, so you can skip those that you don't need. With multiple items selected, you can then drag them all to another location as one, or duplicate or copy them all in one go. You can also open them all as one by hitting ⌘+[O]. This will open everything, so folders will show their contents, and any files selected will open in their respective applications.

After multiple selecting items and right-clicking or [Ctrl]-clicking, you can choose to compress them into a zip file for easier transfer or for backup.


Open
Open With
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress 20 Items
Duplicate
Make Alias
Quick Look 20 Items
Copy 20 Items
Label:
More

Dock items

To quickly get access to an application, file or folder, drag it to the Dock. Applications occupy one half and other items live in the other half. You can right-click on any running application and choose **Keep in Dock**. In OS X 10.4, if you click and hold on a folder in the Dock it displays its contents as a list you can choose from. In OS X 10.5, you have the added option of displaying contents in a Stack, which arcs upwards and lets you select from it.

Make zip files

If you need to email or transfer a group of files, say via *iChat* or FTP, sending them one by one can be tedious. Instead, multiple select the items or group them into a folder. Then, right-click on the folder or items and choose **Create Archive** or **Compress** depending on your version of OS X. *Finder* will then create a zip file containing all the items, which is far easier to email or transfer than multiple files. In addition, the overall file size will now be smaller, so sending the email will also be quicker.

Automatically open applications

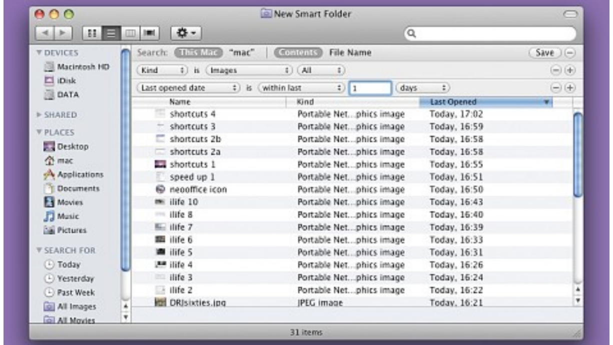
If you have programs that you always want to run as soon as you log in – say, *iChat, Mail* or an RSS newsreader – when they are running you can right-click on them in the Dock and choose **Open at Login**. This will add them to your login items. Alternatively, go to System Preferences > Accounts > Login Items and drag applications to the list to achieve the same result. Remember that adding lots of login items will make starting up slower.

Save time in iTunes

Most people have pretty big *iTunes* music libraries, and adding tags to lots of files can be a chore. If you multiple select a group of files and press ⌘+[I], you get a multiple item info window. Here you can add tags and when you hit **OK**, they are added to every file at once. Another *iTunes* timesaver is to choose Advanced > Get Album Artwork and have *iTunes* connect to the internet and retrieve cover art for any albums in your library that don't currently have it.

USE SMART FOLDERS

Rather than running the same search for files every time you need to find them, why not use Smart Folders? Choose File > New Smart Folder and you get a window where you can enter criteria, a lot like a search window. So, for example, you could enter Kind = Documents and Last Opened = This Week. OS X will then locate all the items that matched those criteria and display them in the smart folder. Save the folder somewhere and it will dynamically update, meaning whenever you open it, it will always display documents opened in the last week. Like the search function, you can be very specific with the criteria.



Search: This Mac "mac" | Contents File Name

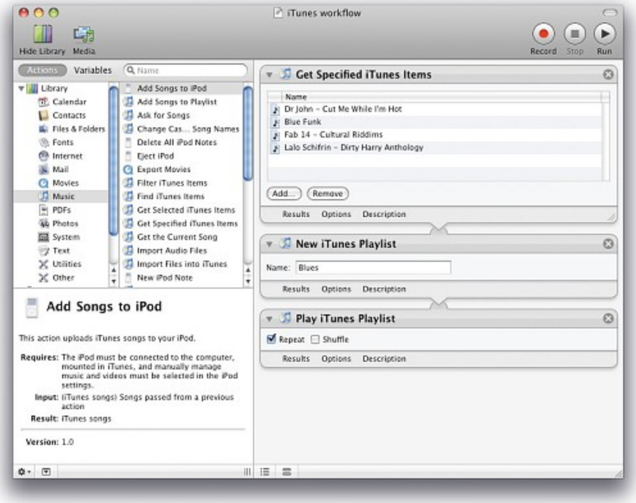
Kind is Images All

Last opened date is within last 1 days

Name	Kind	Last Opened
shortcuts 4	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 17:02
shortcuts 3	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:59
shortcuts 2b	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:58
shortcuts 2a	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:58
shortcuts 1	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:55
speed up 1	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:51
neooffice icon	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:50
ilife 10	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:43
ilife 8	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:40
ilife 7	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:39
ilife 6	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:33
ilife 5	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:31
ilife 4	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:26
ilife 3	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:24
ilife 2	Portable Net...phics image	Today, 16:22
DRJsixties.jpg	JPEG image	Today, 16:21

31 items

Smart Folders are a great way to keep a dynamically updated list of items based on a search.



Add Songs to iPod

This action uploads iTunes songs to your iPod.

Requires: The iPod must be connected to the computer, mounted in iTunes, and manually manage music and videos must be selected in the iPod settings.

Input: (iTunes songs) Songs passed from a previous action

Result: iTunes songs

Version: 1.0

Get Specified iTunes Items

Name
Dr John – Cut Me While I'm Hot
Blue Funk
Fab 14 – Cultural Riddims
Lalo Schifrin – Dirty Harry Anthology

New iTunes Playlist

Name: Blues

Play iTunes Playlist

☑ Repeat ☐ Shuffle

Automator **can be used to build standalone applications and plug-ins for batch processing files and automating repetitive tasks.**

Use Automator

OS X actually has a dedicated application for speeding up repetitive tasks called *Automator.* It contains all sorts of building blocks for creating automated workflows, called actions, which can be saved as plug-ins or standalone applications. So, for example, you could create an action to import a folder of images into *iPhoto* and then sort and export them for the web. Or, copy music from a folder through *iTunes* to an iPod then eject it. The possibilities are endless and there are many excellent free actions available on the Apple website. For a programming tool, it's pretty easy to use!

Automatically check Mail

We all get lots of email, so it's nice to have it retrieved automatically. In *Mail*, for each account you wish to have checked automatically, go to the **Advanced** tab and switch on **Include when automatically checking for new mail**. Then go to the **General** tab and choose an interval in the **Check for new mail** option. Checking for new emails every five minutes is usually enough if you're on broadband or a network. Now, *Mail* will poll each account automatically so you don't need to worry about manually checking. This can save you quite a bit of time throughout the day.

Save time previewing files

In OS X 10.5, if you select any file or folder you can hit the [Spacebar] and get a live preview of its contents. For documents, this is done without opening any applications, so it's very quick. You can Quick Look a movie and you can play it. Quick Look a set of images and you can scroll through them, zoom and even go full screen. Quick Look a PDF or text document and you can view it, with formatting, and you're even able to scroll around it. Quick Look also works with attachments in *Mail* in OS X 10.5. This saves you having to open up each document or message to see what's inside. ▶

10 QUICK TIPS

Zoom in Safari

If you're having trouble reading text in *Safari*, press ⌘ and the plus key to quickly increase the font size. Repeat with the minus key to return it to normal.

Quick Look

The **Quick Look** window in OS X 10.5 is contextual, so if you have it open you can use the arrow keys to Quick Look other items without having to close and open it again.

Get multiple info

If you press ⌘+[I] you can bring up the **Get Info** panel on multiple items, or hold ⌘+⌥+[I] to get a single info window on the collective properties of all the items.

File Sharing

Turn on **Personal File Sharing** for your networked Macs and they will appear in the **Shared** section of the sidebar in OS X 10.5 from any other Mac.

Right click

Many useful options in *Finder* are instantly accessible by right-clicking on any file or folder rather than going to the menu bar.

Quick drop

You can drop any item from *Finder* onto a folder in the Dock and it will be copied to that folder regardless of the folder's location.

Spring loaded

If you drag an item to a folder and hover over it, it will spring open. You can repeat this with its subfolders, which is quicker than double-clicking.

Cover Flow

In 10.5, if you switch to **Cover Flow** view in *Finder* you can use the arrow keys to move through live previews of documents, and up and down through the folder hierarchy.

Shortcut keys

By going to System Preferences > Keyboard & Mouse > Keyboard, you can add your own unique key commands to open specific applications by pressing the **Modifier Keys…** radio button.

Colour labels

You can add a coloured label to more than one file or folder at a time by multiple selecting items, right-clicking and assigning your chosen colour.

20 essential programs

Need tools that don't cost a fortune? Here's our guide to 20 unmissable bargains!

Mac FORMAT On the disc

You'll find these programs on your disc.

The selection of great free or inexpensive Mac programs on offer has never been better. You can now get amazing software designed by small or independent developers to cover practically anything you could ever want to do on your Mac. Since the mass adoption of OS X, Apple has made it easier than ever for people to build their own applications, and as a result there's a flourishing community making everything from games and novelties through to office applications, web design software, video compression and iPod tools and much more. Thanks to the developer tools provided by Apple, OS X shareware programs, unlike Windows versions, tend to be slick, well designed, stable and a pleasure to use so there's really never been a better time to be a Mac user on a budget.

For every big, expensive program like *Office* or *Photoshop*, there's almost always a smaller alternative with a great feature set that costs a fraction of the price, or even costs nothing at all. In many cases, the features they lack over commercial alternatives are things that you wouldn't use anyway. Read on to discover 20 great Apple gems!

OpenOffice.org

Microsoft *Office* for the Mac is ironically regarded as being better than the Windows version, but it still costs more money than most can afford to pay. From the *MacFormat* disc this issue, you can download *OpenOffice.org 2*, and it's a remarkably accomplished program. The result of many years of open source development, it includes advanced word processing, spreadsheet, multimedia presentation, graphical planning and database applications. In short, everything that you get with *Office*, only for free. It is compatible with leading document format standards so exchanging files with people who are using *Office* won't be a problem.

Keyboard shortcuts

⌘ + [Tab]: Invoke the Application Switcher to scroll through apps.

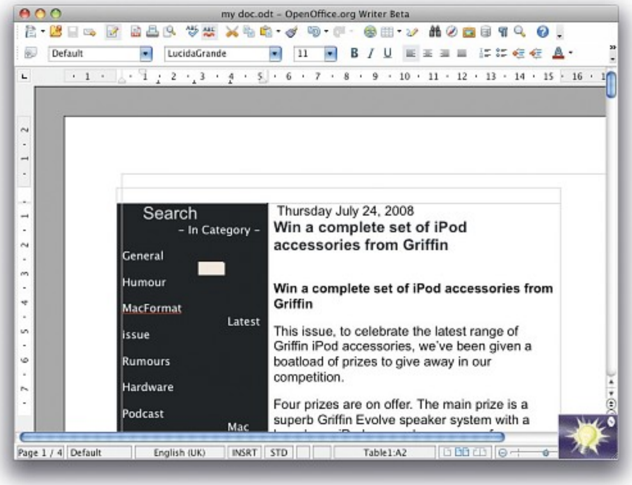
⌘+[S]: Save your current document.

⌘+[Q]: Quit the current application.

⌘+[M]: Minimise currently open window to the Dock.

⌘+[A]: Select all.

⌘+⌥+click on Desktop: Hide all applications at once.



Search
– In Category –
General
Humour
MacFormat
Latest
issue
Rumours
Hardware
Podcast
Mac

Thursday July 24, 2008

Win a complete set of iPod accessories from Griffin

Win a complete set of iPod accessories from Griffin

This issue, to celebrate the latest range of Griffin iPod accessories, we've been given a boatload of prizes to give away in our competition.

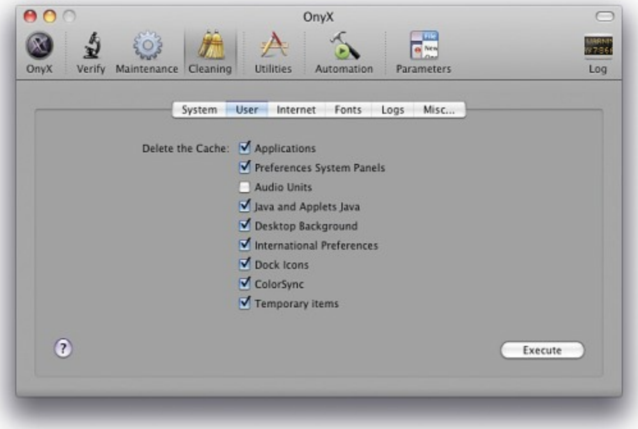
Four prizes are on offer. The main prize is a superb Griffin Evolve speaker system with a

OpenOffice.org is completely free and duplicates much of the functionality found in the expensive Microsoft *Office*.

VisualHub

iPods and iPhones both support video playback, but first you have to get your movies into the correct format. A cheaper and faster alternative to *QuickTime Pro* is *VisualHub* at $23 from **www.techspansion.com**. Not only will it crunch a movie to the right format much quicker than you expect, it will let you convert pretty much any video format into any other video format, complete with size and crop options. There are also handy presets for converting for specific devices. Even for video professionals, it's a very handy tool to have.

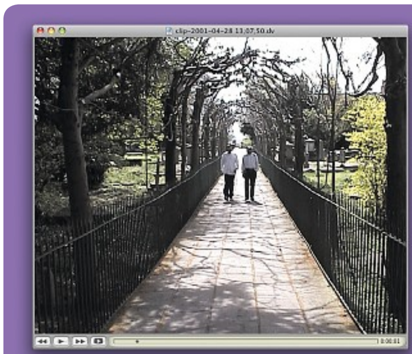
Maintenance utilities like *OnyX* clear out clutter and tweak the apperance and behaviour of OS X.



Delete the Cache:
☑ Applications
☑ Preferences System Panels
☐ Audio Units
☑ Java and Applets Java
☑ Desktop Background
☑ International Preferences
☑ Dock Icons
☑ ColorSync
☑ Temporary items

VLC MEDIA PLAYER

There are lots of video codecs in use across the web, and since many originate from the world of Windows, *QuickTime* isn't always able to play them back properly, even with something like *Perian* installed. *VLC Media Player* is a free video player that has support for just about any video you're ever likely to come across. It's usually able to open and play back videos that no other application that's currently around can do. In addition, it has advanced network features for playing streams and will get you out of a fix when you're struggling to open movie files.



VLC Media Player can open files that *QuickTime* may struggle with.

Cyberduck

Transferring files to and from web servers over FTP can be a little hit and miss using *Finder*. A great free solution is *Cyberduck*, which is a powerful but easy-to-use program that supports all leading file transfer standards and protocols and makes transferring files as easy as dragging and dropping. With support for Spotlight, Keychains and iDisk, it integrates perfectly with OS X and is the perfect companion for *iWeb* if you're using your own domain. You can even bookmark and store settings to manage multiple FTP accounts easily.

OnyX

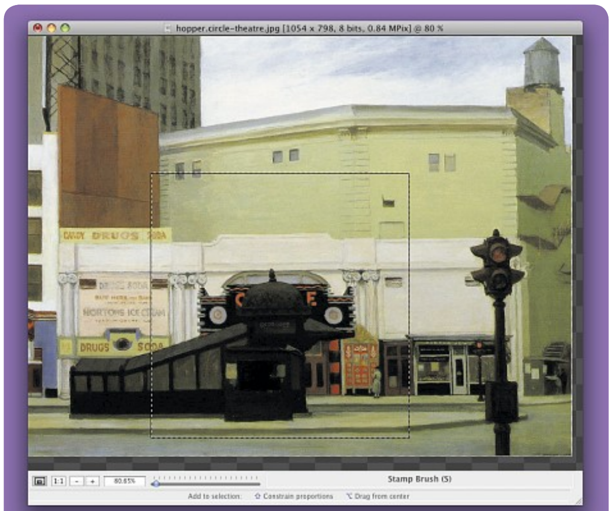
There are many parts of OS X that you can normally only access using the command line. Unless, that is, you use *OnyX*, a free system cleaning and maintenance utility. It's able to perform important system maintenance and cleaning tasks like clearing out logs, caches and temporary files that build up over time, can become corrupted and can even slow down your Mac. It also gives you access to hidden OS X settings via the **Parameters** tab, including customising the appearance and behaviour of the Dock, *Finder*, *Dashboard*, *Safari* and Exposé amongst others.

iStat Pro

iStat Pro is a great free system monitoring widget for OS X, comprising nine sections which can be hidden or shown. It will display detailed information about your Mac's CPU, RAM, hard drives, network addresses and data transfer, battery, current uptime and the temperature inside various parts of the Mac. It does this by hooking into the many sensors that your Mac has but doesn't allow access to through *Finder*. It's a good way to keep an eye on your Mac's insides and troubleshoot any problems.

AppCleaner

Removing unwanted applications from your system is rarely quite as simple as dragging the app to the Trash. Programs tend to place library and support files in other places you may not know about. *AppCleaner* is able to find the small files deposited around the system by apps during their install and remove those at the same time as the main app. It's possible to protect some apps from being deleted so you can use it with confidence and stop your Mac becoming cluttered with unwanted support files.



CHOCOFLOP

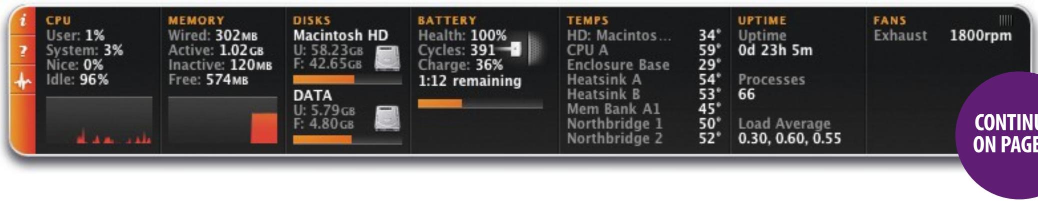
This curiously-named image and photo editor from **www.chocoflop.com** is an interesting alternative to *Photoshop* and *iPhoto*. Well designed, it is able to work with RAW files and export and import in many file formats. It also has tools to retouch images and paint on them, and dozens of filters, layer support and more. Unlike *iPhoto* it can work with rich text layers, and has a feature-set that is significantly more advanced.

AppFresh

Software Update handles OS X and Apple programs, but keeping track of updates for your many installed applications can be tiresome. Some have **check for updates** options but they all work separately from one another. *AppFresh* checks **osx.iusethis.com** to notify you of new versions of all your programs, widgets and preference panes. It lets you download them, too, though as it's currently in development you could simply use it as a notifier until it's thoroughly tested with all applications.

Adium X

iChat is a great instant messaging program but not compatible with all the many instant messaging account types in use around the world. *Adium* supports just about every protocol in existence and is available for multiple platforms, so however obscure someone's setup, you should be able to talk to them. It's also highly customisable so you can change its appearance in minute detail. With great features like tabbed chats and file transfer, it can manage multiple account types in a single window so you'll never miss an online chat again. ▶



```
CPU
User: 1%
System: 3%
Nice: 0%
Idle: 96%

MEMORY
Wired: 302MB
Active: 1.02GB
Inactive: 120MB
Free: 574MB

DISKS
Macintosh HD
U: 58.23GB
F: 42.65GB
DATA
U: 5.79GB
F: 4.80GB

BATTERY
Health: 100%
Cycles: 391
Charge: 36%
1:12 remaining

TEMPS
HD: Macintos...      34°
CPU A                59°
Enclosure Base       29°
Heatsink A           54°
Heatsink B           53°
Mem Bank A1          45°
Northbridge 1        50°
Northbridge 2        52°

UPTIME
Uptime
0d 23h 5m

Processes
66

Load Average
0.30, 0.60, 0.55

FANS
Exhaust     1800rpm
```

iStat Pro is an excellent free widget that displays every statistic about the workings of your Mac that you need to know.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 68

10 QUICK APPS

Carbon Copy Cloner

For those without Apple's *Time Machine*, *Carbon Copy Cloner* is a great free way to create byte-for-byte copies of your hard drives for backup and restore purposes.

MacLoc

MacLoc activates Leopard's **Fast User Switching** function, making it look like you have logged out when you leave your Mac, even though all apps and documents will still be active.

coconutWiFi

Use *coconutWiFi* for free to scan for wireless networks when out and about with your laptop, and see if they are password protected or open.

DockSpaces

Use the fabulous *DockSpaces* to store up to five different Dock configurations and switch between them from the menu bar.

Pingus

Pingus is a free clone of the ultra-addictive classic *Lemmings* game, available from the Apple website games section or from this issue's disc.

SnapNDrag

SnapNDrag is a simple but useful screenshot utility that lets you click and drag to take grabs and select different image formats as you do so.

NeoOffice

NeoOffice is a port of the excellent and free *OpenOffice.org* suite of office applications that runs natively on OS X and can exchange documents in Microsoft's *Office* format.

Hide Folders 2008

Use *Hide Folders 2008* to conceal your files and folders from others to keep them private. If you do wish to share them, they can be made visible again by setting a password.

Skim

Skim is a free PDF reader and editor with advanced functions like the ability to annotate and edit PDFs and extract data with more flexibility than OS X's own *Preview* application.

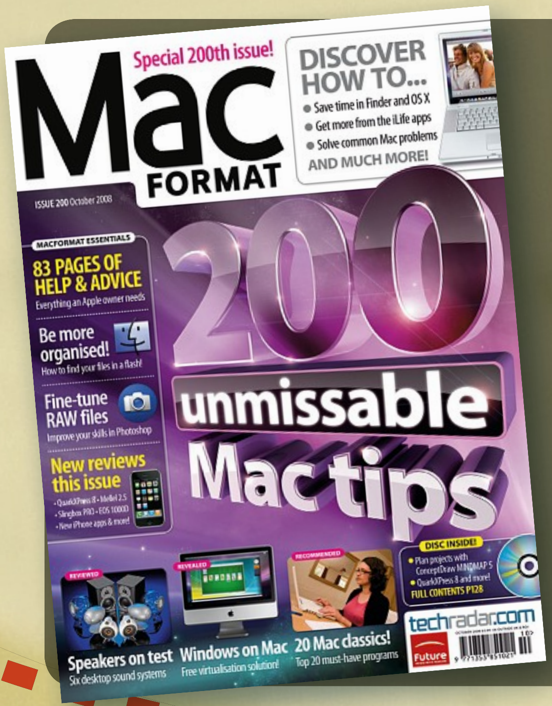
YouControl: Tunes

This program sits in the menu bar and gives you quick access to all aspects of *iTunes* playback, including artwork without you having to leave your work.

SAVE $78

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TODAY*

Get your copy of *MacFormat* up to three weeks before it hits the US newsstands for just $9.99 and save $78 – only when you subscribe!



Special 200th issue!
Mac FORMAT
ISSUE 200 October 2008
DISCOVER HOW TO...
Save time in Finder and OS X
Get more from the iLife apps
Solve common Mac problems
AND MUCH MORE!
MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS
83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE
Everything an Apple owner needs
Be more organised!
How to find your files in a flash!
Fine-tune RAW files
Improve your skills in Photoshop
New reviews this issue
200 unmissable Mac tips
DISC INSIDE!
FULL CONTENTS P128
Speakers on test
Six desktop sound systems
Windows on Mac
Free virtualisation solution!
20 Mac classics!
Top 20 must-have programs
techradar.com
Future

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Subscribe for just $129.99 (or $32.49 every three months) and you'll receive 13 issues a year of troubleshooting advice and reviews of all the latest Apple kit. All this and more will be delivered straight to your door, up to three weeks before it arrives on the US newsstands!

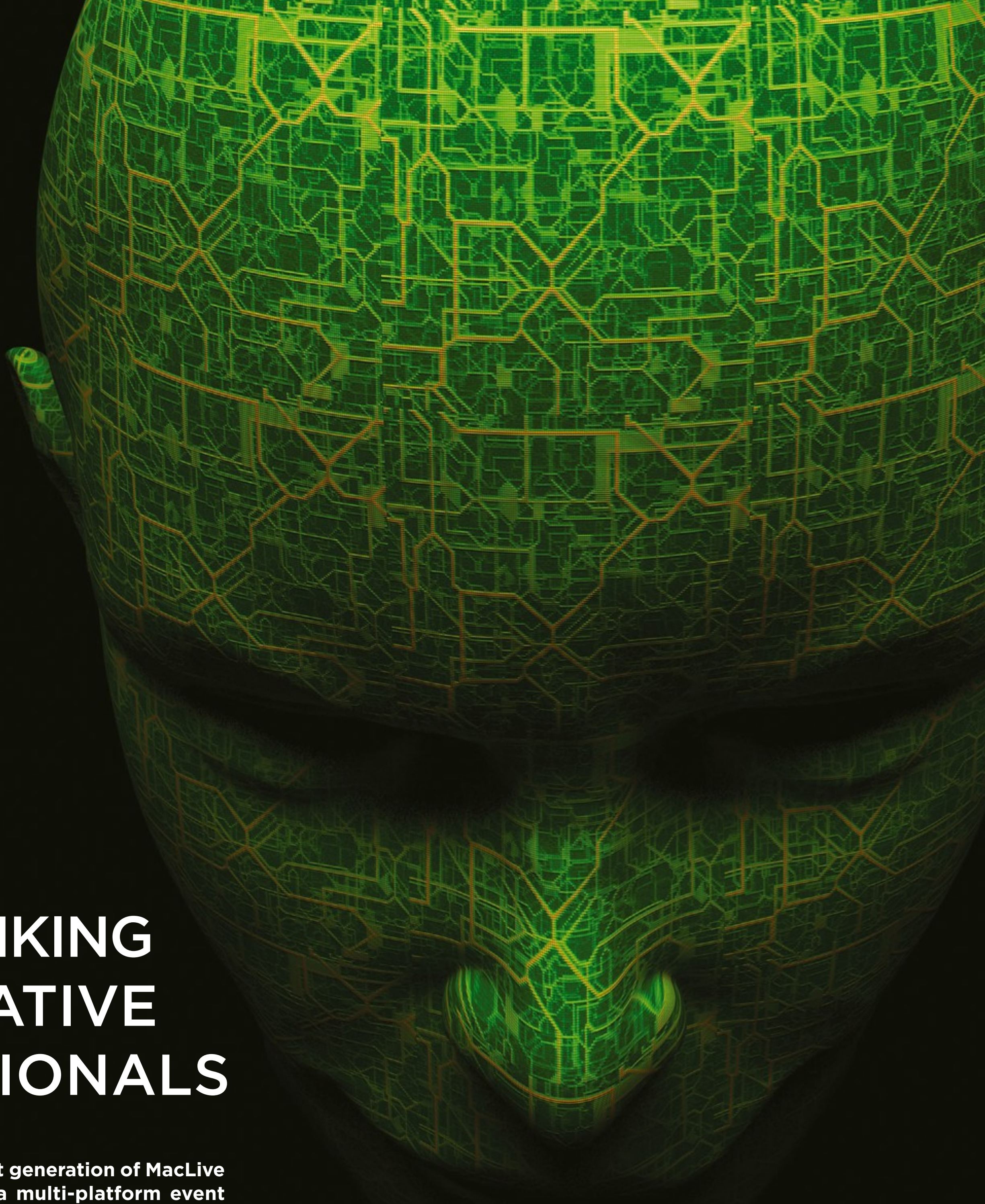
SUBSCRIBE ONLINE

www.imsnews.com/mfc

Please enter the promotional code A013 to enjoy this offer

Terms and Conditions:

This offer is only available to new US and Canadian subscribers. We publish 13 issues of *MacFormat* a year and the minimum subscription term is 12 months. If, at any time during the next 60 days, you are dissatisfied in any way, please notify us in writing and we will refund you all unmailed issues. Your subscription will start with the next available issue. This offer expires on 15 November 2008.



23-25 OCTOBER 2008
OLYMPIA, LONDON

A MULTI-PLATFORM
EVENT FEATURING:

- DESIGN & PRINT
- PUBLISHING
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- AUDIO & VIDEO
- MAC LIFESTYLE
- MAC LIVE EXPO
- LINUXEXPO LIVE
- COMPREHENSIVE SEMINAR PROGRAMME
- BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

NEW THINKING FOR CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS

This October will see the next generation of MacLive Expo - CreativePro Expo - a multi-platform event reaching across the entire design community, whatever your chosen platform.

This showcase of all the latest products and services in the creative industry will be a truly interactive experience designed to inspire everyone who attends. Both consumers and professionals alike will be driven to improve their skills and get the most out of all the creative disciplines.

Reaching out to a much broader audience, this combined approach will ensure that CreativePro Expo is the most comprehensive event of its kind to date.

Creativepro expo
Thu 23rd - Sat 25th October '08
Olympia National Hall, London
www.creativepro-expo.co.uk

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

Mac live expo
THURS 23 - SAT 25
OCTOBER 2008
National Hall, Olympia
Kensington - London
www.macliveexpo.co.uk

AND

Linux live expo
THURS 23 - SAT 25
OCTOBER 2008
National Hall, Olympia
LONDON
www.linuxexpolive.co.uk

VISIT THE WEBSITE AND REGISTER FOR A TICKET TODAY!

www.creativepro-expo.co.uk

SUPPORTED BY:

Adobe®
Computer arts
design week
LINUX MAGAZINE
LINUX USER & DEVELOPER
Mac FORMAT
MacUser
PrintMedia MANAGEMENT
SWPP BPPA QUALIFIED member

Simple Mac solutions

We show you how to deal with some of the most common Mac problems…

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 65

First, the good news. Macs are among the most powerful computers on the market, and certainly the best designed. Mac OS X is light years ahead of any other operating system in terms of usability, features and appearance. Even so, nobody has yet designed a perfect computer and Mac problems do exist. Years spent working in technical support reveal some common problems, sometimes due to users misunderstanding something, and other times due to genuine software errors or hardware failure. The good news is, that of all the Mac problems you could encounter only a tiny percentage actually result in the Mac dying. Usually it's a software glitch, a badly maintained system or a third-party driver problem. In more serious cases, internal components can sometimes fail but in most cases they can be replaced without a costly trip back to the Apple Store. Then there's the issue of security – how do you ensure your Mac is safe online and that your wireless connection is secure? All of these issues and more can be resolved, so read on to find out how.

The CD won't eject from my Mac – how can I get it out?

If holding down the CD eject key for around ten seconds doesn't work, the first thing to do is make sure it's not in use. Quit any programs and close any documents located on the disc that may be open. Try dragging the disc to the Trash, which would normally eject it, or choosing File > Eject from *Finder*. If that fails, restart the Mac while holding down the mouse button. This should force the tray or mechanism to spit out the disc. If you're feeling adventurous you could open the *Terminal* application and type **drutil eject**. *Disk Utility* may also be able to eject the disc.

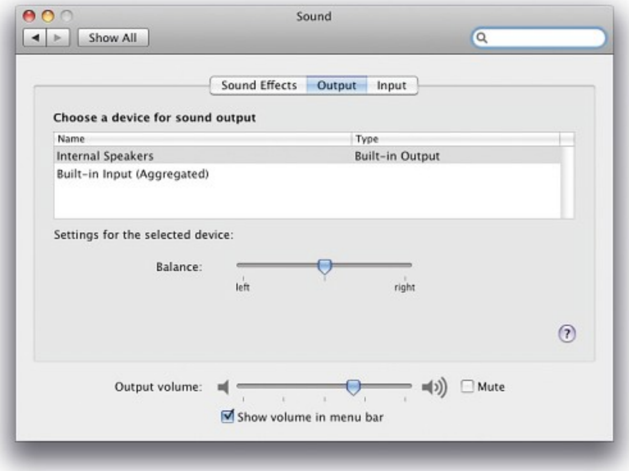
I can't get my Mac to produce sound – what should I do?

The first step is to check that the volume is switched on. Then, go to System Preferences > Sound and check that your main sound device is selected and unmuted. If you have an external audio interface connected, check its drivers are installed and up to date and look at its control panel. If there's still no sound, disconnect the external device and reboot the Mac, holding ⌘+⌥+[P]+[R] to reset the Parameter RAM. This should force the system to revert to the internal soundcard, bringing back the sound.

Every time I touch the side button on my Mighty Mouse, Dashboard appears. How can I stop it?

Go to the System Preferences > Keyboard & Mouse section and the **Mouse** tab. With your Mighty Mouse plugged in, you can reassign any of the four buttons to control left- and right-click, Spotlight, Exposé, *Dashboard* or the Application Switcher. Everyone has different preferences and you

Check your Mac is set to produce sound by looking at the **Sound** preference pane and checking the right device is selected and that it's unmuted.



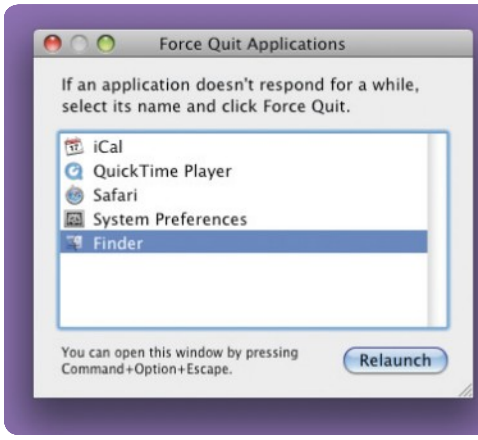
Choose a device for sound output

Name	Type
Internal Speakers	Built-in Output
Built-in Input (Aggregated)	

Settings for the selected device:

☑ Show volume in menu bar

THE SPINNING BEACH BALL



If an application doesn't respond for a while, select its name and click Force Quit.

You can open this window by pressing Command+Option+Escape.

This is a sign that a process or application has frozen. In the OS 9 days, a crashed application usually meant a hard reboot, but OS X can handle any programs that fall over. If a program is frozen, hold ⌘+⌥+[esc] or choose **Force Quit** from the Apple menu to open the **Force Quit** window. It may display **Application not responding** next to its name. If a program crashes repeatedly you need to investigate why. It may need updating or reinstalling to improve compatibility with your system.

Keyboard shortcuts

⌘ S

⌘+[S] during startup: Boot the Mac in single user mode.

⌘ E

⌘+[E]: Eject optical drive from Mac.

⌘ C

Hold [C] during startup: Force boot from CD or DVD.

⌘ T

Hold [T] during startup: Start up in FireWire Target Disk mode.

⌘ ⌥ ⇧ ←

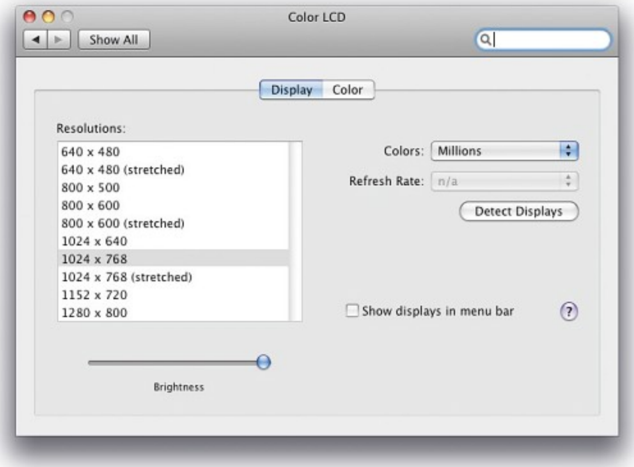
⌘+⌥+⇧+[Delete] during startup: Seek an alternative device to boot from.

Assign commands to any of the buttons on your Mighty Mouse using the Mouse option in *System Preferences*.

can, of course, switch some buttons off so they do nothing. There's an interesting option for some butons called **Other** which lets you assign a control to open a specific application.

I have connected a second monitor but it's not displaying anything – why is this?

Make sure your second monitor is properly connected and powered on. Open System Preferences > Displays and go to the **Display** tab. Then click on the **Detect Displays** button. If the second screen doesn't come to life, click on the **Gather Windows** button which should place its control panel on your main screen. From there you can try altering its refresh rate and resolution in case the current settings are causing a problem. Also check that your graphics card supports two monitors, though most modern ones do. If all else fails, try the reset PRAM trick mentioned on the previous page.


Color LCD

Resolutions:
640 x 480
640 x 480 (stretched)
800 x 500
800 x 600
800 x 600 (stretched)
1024 x 640
1024 x 768
1024 x 768 (stretched)
1152 x 720
1280 x 800

Colors: Millions
Refresh Rate: n/a

☐ Show displays in menu bar

When trying to get your Mac to recognise a second monitor, use the **Detect Displays** button in System Preferences > Displays.

I can't install software, it says I don't have access to folders. What does that mean?

If you have an Administrator account on the Mac, which is any regular account, you should be able to install software with your Admin username and password. Mac OS X is based on a system of permissions governing who can access which files and folders. Occasionally, usually after software installs, these permissions can become corrupted meaning you are denied access to items you should be able to open. Go to the Applications > Utilities folder and open *Disk Utility*. Then select the boot drive, probably called **Macintosh HD,** and click **Repair Permissions.** If you see that some needed repairing, that was probably the cause.

My USB pen drive sometimes will not eject, and when I pull it out the Mac says data may have been lost. How can I fix this?

If data from a drive is in use – a *Word* document is open, for example – external devices won't eject until you quit the applications using the documents. However, if a drive still won't eject even when apparently not in use, you can pull it out but that risks corrupting the drive and isn't advisable. A better idea is to quit all applications and log out then in again or even shut down the Mac altogether. Once shut down it will be safe to remove any drives. Use *Disk Utility* to check USB and FireWire drives for consistency using the **Verify** and **Repair Disk** buttons. In extreme cases, use the **Erase** tab to format them, which often fixes serious problems.

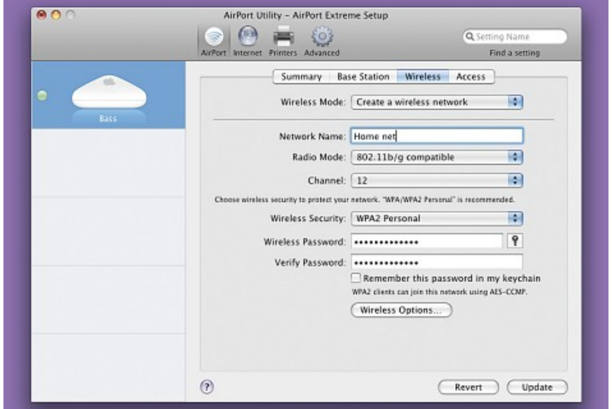
Some of my documents appear as blank icons and won't open properly – what should I do?

Use a free program like *OnyX* to rebuild the LaunchServices Database, which tells OS X which applications to open with which kinds of documents. So it will know to always open a .mov file with *QuickTime Player*, for example. If you right-click on any document you can choose **Open With**, which provides a list of compatible programs. Choose **Other** to try one that's not officially listed. If you **Get Info** (⌘+[I]) on a document and set its **Open With** setting to the correct program, you can use the **Change All** button to force every document of that type to open with that application. This is a good way, for example, to always make PDFs open in *Preview* rather than *Acrobat*.

▶

I'M WORRIED ABOUT NEIGHBOURS STEALING MY AIRPORT CONNECTION

The AirPort *Admin Utility* makes it easy to set up industrial strength password protection on your base station, which you should do at once, choosing an unusual, impossible-to-guess password. Your Mac will remember the password and always let you on. There's also the option to create a specific list of computers allowed on the network based on their Ethernet address, allow time limited sessions to certain machines or even to hide the network completely so that you can get on but nobody else will even see it.


AirPort Utility – AirPort Extreme Setup

Wireless Mode: Create a wireless network
Network Name: Home net
Radio Mode: 802.11b/g compatible
Channel: 12
Choose wireless security to protect your network. "WPA/WPA2 Personal" is recommended.
Wireless Security: WPA2 Personal
Wireless Password: •••••••••••••
Verify Password: •••••••••••••
☐ Remember this password in my keychain
WPA2 clients can join this network using AES-CCMP.

Stop neighbours from using your WiFi connection by setting up a secure password.

10 QUICK TIPS

Extending AirPort

If you're having signal problems with AirPort, try adding a booster antenna or a second relay base station if your building is very large.

Battery drain

Simply dimming the screen will extend the life of a laptop's batteries when you're out and about and not able to plug it into the mains.

Cool down

Making sure that a Mac gets sufficient airflow to its fans will make it run much cooler and reduce its overall fan noise.

Startup sound

Your Mac's startup chime is a good sign. It's actually a signal that it has passed its initial hardware test and is working properly.

Secure empty trash

Choose Finder > Secure Empty Trash and OS X will overwrite the files several times so they can't be recovered. Just make sure you are going to want to retrieve the trashed files first!

Long running

OS X is designed to be left on or in sleep mode for long periods of time. If it eventually does start to slow down, a restart usually fixes it.

AirPort antenna

G5 tower models have an external AirPort antenna on the back that needs to be plugged in to ensure it has a good reception.

Safe sleep

All of Apple's current laptops have a Safe Sleep feature, so when the battery is exhausted, the contents of memory are written safely to disk so that they don't get lost.

FireWire reset

If FireWire devices aren't being recognised, shut down the Mac, disconnect all cables and try again after a few hours.

Bluetooth pairing

You can pair and un-pair Bluetooth devices easily with your Mac. Simply go to *System Preferences* and choose the **Bluetooth** option. From there you can activate Bluetooth sharing.

10 QUICK TIPS

Combo updaters

When updating OS X, using the larger combo updaters is generally recommended as they contain all previous updates and rarely cause problems.

External devices

Sometimes it's the drivers written for peripherals like scanners or audio interfaces that cause the problems, and not OS X itself. Always check their compatibility before installing.

Start from scratch

When diagnosing a hardware problem, disconnect all peripherals and start with the simplest system possible, reintroducing devices as you go.

File transfer

If you need to connect two Macs together, it's best doing it via Ethernet, as it will enable far faster data transfer between the two machine than using the AirPort functionality.

Sharing connections

You can share a Mac's network connection to other Macs over AirPort, Ethernet or FireWire. Simply go to *System Preferences* and then choose Sharing > Internet.

Platform specific

When installing OS X over FireWire from one Mac to another, remember they must either both be Intel or both PowerPC-based Macs.

Old code

Older PowerPC-coded applications will run on Intel Macs using Rosetta emulation, but may run more slowly than expected. It is best to update software when updating our Mac to an Intel chip version.

Preference files

If an application refuses to start up when you try to launch it, try deleting its preference file from the Macintosh HD > Library > Preferences folder as it may have become corrupt.

Renaming folders

Although it's possible to manually rename **System** and **User** folders, this is highly inadvisable and could stop OS X from functioning properly.

Find files

To locate lost files, use *Finder's* **Find** function to search by content, date, type and other criteria which should seek it out even if you have lost it.

More solutions

Most issues are easy to fix with patience and know-how

While trying to upgrade OS X 10.4 to 10.5 there was a problem and now my Mac won't boot. Help!

The solution depends on whether the upgrade completed or failed before it finished. Boot from the install DVD again and run a disk verification and repair, then try a reboot. If it still doesn't work, try reinstalling 10.5 but this time in the install options, choose **Archive and Install.** This will keep the existing system but quarantine it while a new one is installed. Then, you can drag your files and applications from the old to the newly-installed system and eventually, once everything is working properly, delete the old system.

I can't play a movie that I downloaded from a movie trailer site – why is this?

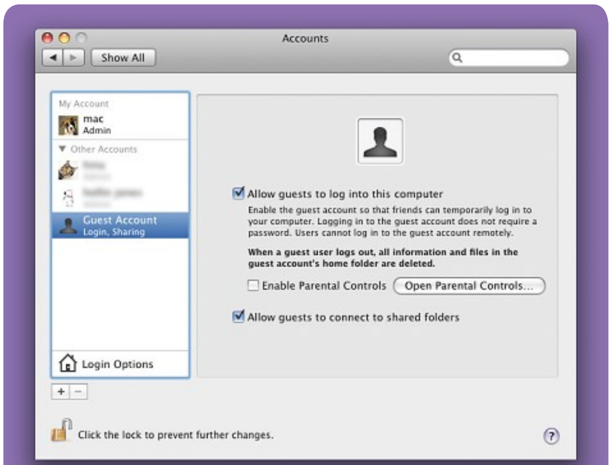
QuickTime is good but there are loads of different video codecs in use on the web, and it doesn't directly support them all. Your best bet is to download and install *Perian*, which adds to *QuickTime* the ability to play back all kinds of weird and wonderful types of videos. It's also worth installing the latest version of the *Flash Player* from Adobe since most web video now uses *Flash* as its format of choice. To play WMV files you'll need the free *Flip4Mac* plug-in, which is able to load Windows media videos straight in the *QuickTime Player*. Get it from **www.flip4mac.com**.

How can I give my Mac a good spring clean? It's never had one and my applications are slowing down.

Head over to **www.titanium.free.fr** and download for free the version of *OnyX* appropriate to your version of Mac OS X (or install it from the *MacFormat* disc). This great utility can clear out cookies, logs, caches, histories and all kinds of associated clutter that accumulates over months and years of Mac use. You should find that once it's run and you have restarted, not only will you have reclaimed quite a lot of disk space but the Mac should feel snappier as well.

I'm working on a MacBook but keep running out of screen space. What's the solution?

Short of attaching an external monitor, which isn't very portable, you should try using Spaces in OS X 10.5. Go to the System Preferences > Exposé & Spaces and enable it, then choose to show Spaces in the menu bar. Now, each space can contain a different set of windows and you can move between them seamlessly using a shortcut like ⌘+ arrow keys or whatever you set up in the preferences once Spaces is working. You can assign specific applications to spaces, so you can keep web browsing in one, word processing in another and *iPhoto* in a third, for example.



☑ Allow guests to log into this computer

Enable the guest account so that friends can temporarily log in to your computer. Logging in to the guest account does not require a password. Users cannot log in to the guest account remotely.

When a guest user logs out, all information and files in the guest account's home folder are deleted.

☐ Enable Parental Controls

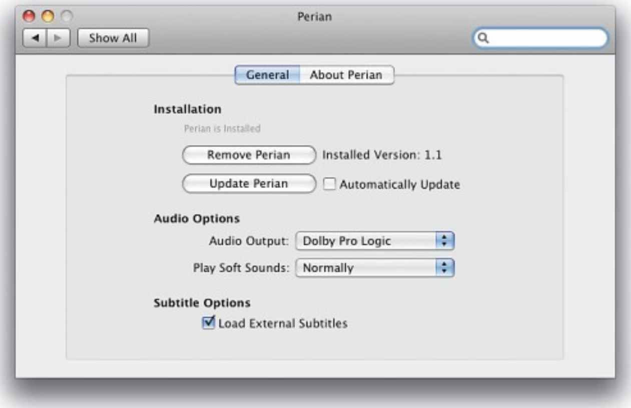
☑ Allow guests to connect to shared folders

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO CREATE A GUEST ACCOUNT ON MY MAC WITH RESTRICTED ABILITIES?

In the System Preferences > Accounts tab in 10.5, you can see a guest account. When switched on, guests can log in without a password and a temporary home folder is created. Guests cannot see, access or modify any important files or folders or any settings, and when they log out any files they created are deleted so it's a secure way to allow limited access. Like with parental controls, you can restrict a guest's access to certain applications and filter their internet content.

Install the free *Perian* codec pack and your *QuickTime Player* will be better able to handle the variety of video formats on the web.



Installation

Perian is Installed

Installed Version: 1.1

☐ Automatically Update

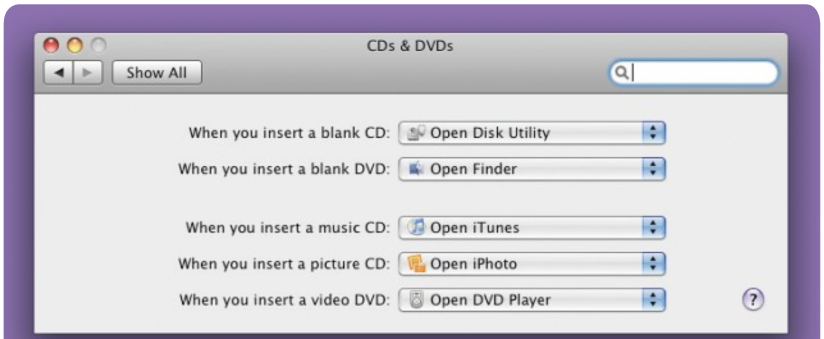
Audio Options

Audio Output: Dolby Pro Logic

Play Soft Sounds: Normally

Subtitle Options

☑ Load External Subtitles


CDs & DVDs
Show All

When you insert a blank CD: Open Disk Utility
When you insert a blank DVD: Open Finder
When you insert a music CD: Open iTunes
When you insert a picture CD: Open iPhoto
When you insert a video DVD: Open DVD Player

SHOW RECORDABLE DISCS ON DESKTOP

Go to the System Preferences > CDs & DVDs section. Here you can manage how OS X deals with inserted media. You can set it so that when you insert a blank CD or DVD, it opens *Finder*. You'll then be able to drop items onto the discs and burn them from *Finder*. You can also choose to open *Disk Utility*, *iTunes*, or any third-party burning applications you may have installed such as Roxio *Toast* (£70, **www.roxio.co.uk**) or *Disco* ($30 (£15), **www.discoapp.com**). This is also where you mange settings for pre-burned music and video discs.

My Mac hangs on startup and never gets to the login screen – what can I do?

Try booting from the install DVD and running disk and permissions repair on the boot drive. If that doesn't help, investigate a solution like *DiskWarrior* ($100 (£50), **www.alsoft.com**), which can rebuild a drive's directory structure often with great success. Alternatively, try booting the Mac into **FireWire Target Disk** mode by connecting to another Mac and running *Disk Utility* on the faltering Mac's hard drive. If you're confident enough, boot into **Single User** mode by holding ⌘+[S] during startup and running fsck disk checking. Detailed instructions for this are on Apple's website.

My Intel Mac running 10.5 has had a hard drive failure but I have Time Machine backups – will they help?

Luckily, the first time you run *Time Machine* it backs up the entire system including all files necessary for booting and running OS X.

If you replace the faulty hard drive then boot the Mac from the install DVD and connect the *Time Machine* backup drive, you should get the option to restore the entire system from a backup. This will clone a working system back onto the fresh new drive and everything should work as before. 10.4 users can investigate *SuperDuper!* or *Carbon Copy Cloner* for making similar backups.

After updating Microsoft Office, all my fonts in Safari are messed up. Why?

The *Office* installer has a tendency to meddle for some reason with system fonts, and it can happen that it messes up applications completely unrelated to itself. If this happens, open *Font Book* from the **Applications** folder on your hard drive and try to identify the font that's being substituted in *Safari* for the correct one. *Safari*'s preferences may not help you so you may have to do it by sight. Once you find it, right-click in *Font Book* and disable or completely remove the font, which should fix the problem.

My Mac is getting slower in its old age – is there anything I can do?

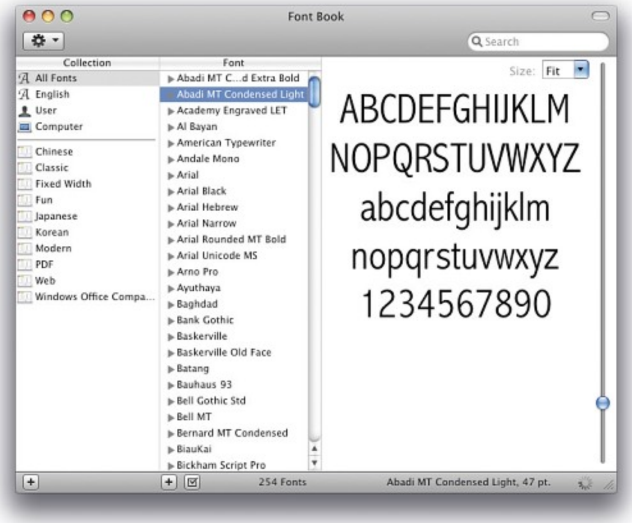
As we try to run newer software on older Macs, they will start to feel slow. Fitting as much RAM as possible is always advisable, and being realistic about what you should expect from ageing machines. A stripped-down Mac with a fast hard drive will perform the best, so clear out the clutter or back up and then reinstall a fresh system, getting rid of all the programs you don't use any more in the process. Don't try to install the newest versions of OS X on old Macs as they may struggle – stick with something a little older but better suited to the hardware.

My internal hard drive has failed. I have the files backed up – what should I do?

If you're on a tower Mac or a MacBook, you will be able to replace the drive yourself by following the instructions on Apple's website. If you're on an older laptop, MacBook Pro or iMac with a non-user serviceable hard drive, your options are more limited. Getting it replaced professionally may be expensive. In a pinch, you can install a system on an external FireWire drive and run happily from that by holding ⌥ during startup and choosing it as a boot drive. FireWire is best but some Intel Macs will reportedly boot from USB 2.0 drives in certain configurations. ●

If a hard drive fails on a tower Mac like a G4, G5 or Mac Pro, it's relatively easy and inexpensive to replace it. Remember to always back up your data regularly.

If fonts are in a mess after updating or installing software, use *Font Book* to temporarily disable or even delete the offending font.


Font Book
Search
Collection
Font
All Fonts
English
User
Computer
Chinese
Classic
Fixed Width
Fun
Japanese
Korean
Modern
PDF
Web
Windows Office Compa...
Abadi MT C...d Extra Bold
Abadi MT Condensed Light
Academy Engraved LET
Al Bayan
American Typewriter
Andale Mono
Arial
Arial Black
Arial Hebrew
Arial Narrow
Arial Rounded MT Bold
Arial Unicode MS
Arno Pro
Ayuthaya
Baghdad
Bank Gothic
Baskerville
Baskerville Old Face
Batang
Bauhaus 93
Bell Gothic Std
Bell MT
Bernard MT Condensed
BiauKai
Bickham Script Pro
Size: Fit
ABCDEFGHIJKLM
NOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklm
nopqrstuvwxyz
1234567890
254 Fonts
Abadi MT Condensed Light, 47 pt.

Keyboard shortcuts

⌘+[Tab]: Switch between open applications.

⌘+click on a window's name in title bar: Reveal file's location or URL.

⌘+⌥+[Ctrl]+[Eject]: Shut down immediately with no confirmation.

[Ctrl]+⇧+[Eject]: Put display to sleep running 10.5.

⌘+[Spacebar]: Invoke Spotlight.

Corbis Super RF / Alamy

All you need for...

Enjoying music

Turn your Mac into a marvellous music machine

Headphones

Sennheiser HD 212 Pro

Price: £40 (+£6 p&p)

Web: www.stoneaudio.co.uk

Buying a good set of headphones is always tricky, simply because of the sheer variety that is available these days. However, we reckon you can't go wrong with Sennheiser, and the HD 212 Pro headphones provide a good sound at an attractive price. The thing we like about the HD 212 Pro is that it gives the bass a nice boost without overwhelming all the other frequencies. The padded earpieces are nice and comfy, too.

iTunes music card

iTunes Card

Price: from £15

Web: via iTunes or store.apple.com/uk

We still have our doubts about Apple's so-called 'Fairplay' copy-protection system, but there are times when you just can't resist downloading that old song you found on *iTunes* or the latest album by your favourite band. To make sure you've always got some credit on your *iTunes* account you can buy prepaid iTunes Cards in a variety of stores for either £15 or £25, or use the 'allowance' option to deposit a specific amount into your – or your kids' – accounts every month.

Wireless router

Apple AirPort Express

Price: £65

Web: http://store.apple.com/uk

The AirPort Express is one of Apple's unsung great products. Priced at just £65, it's a compact wireless router that also has an audio connector built into it. This means that you can connect the AirPort Express to a set of speakers anywhere in your home and then beam music from *iTunes* on your Mac and play it through the AirPort Express. It's cheaper than other multi-room music systems, such as the Sonos Zone Player and, unlike rival systems, it can play your *iTunes* downloads, too.

Desktop speakers

Ferguson Hill FH007

Price: £395

Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk

There's no denying that this set of speakers is a sheer stroke of design genius. They look amazing and offer sound quality to match but would take up rather a large chunk of your desk space. Priced at just under £400, they're not cheap and don't come with a sub-woofer (this can be bought for an extra £275) but the sound is still clean and crisp without it. Read more about the FH007s in this issue's Group Test on page 104.

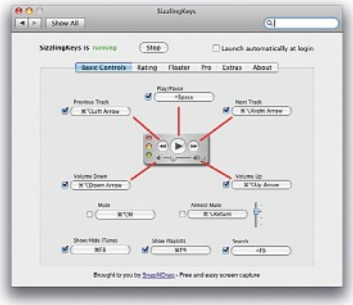
iPod speakers

Altec Lansing inMotion iM11

Price: £60

Web: www.alteclansing.co.uk

Altec Lansing makes a wide range of excellent portable speaker systems, including special models for the iPhone and the iPod nano. However, the IM11 is a good, low-cost speaker/dock system that works with most iPod models. The convenient folding design makes it easy to carry the speakers in a suitcase or backpack, yet the sound quality is surprisingly good for such a compact system. As well as the iPod dock, the iM11 also has a secondary audio input so you can connect a CD player or even your MacBook.



iTunes controller

Sizzling Keys

Price: Free

Web: www.yellowmug.com/sk4it

Sizzling Keys is useful for anyone who likes to listen to *iTunes* while working. It displays info on the currently playing tune and provides a series of keyboard shortcuts to control *iTunes* while working in other apps. If you're writing a letter in *Word*, hit the Playlist shortcut (⌘+[F9]) and a window will appear that lets you choose any of your *iTunes* Playlists.

Q&A

Got a problem with your Mac?
Send your queries to Luis at:
mfhelpline@futurenet.co.uk

This month, Luis Villazon helps with a boot issue, an AirPort problem, and sets a trap for a jumping mouse

QUICK TIP

Secure file deletion

If you need to remove sensitive documents from your hard disk, don't just delete them and empty the Trash – they can still be recovered this way. Use Finder > Secure Empty Trash instead. This will overwrite the files and prevent any chance of retrieval.

MOBILEME DOES NOT WORK WITH IE

Q **I'm using MobileMe on trial and it's okay, but when I try to connect at work on *Internet Explorer*, I'm advised to download *Safari* or *Firefox*? Is *IE* blocked or is there an add-on required?**
Nik Howarth

MobileMe Login
mobileme
Login
Member Name
Password
Keep me logged in for two weeks
Forgot password?
Log In
Not yet a Member?
Learn more or sign up for a free trial.

At present, MobileMe cannot be accessed through *Internet Explorer* for 'technical reasons'.

A It's blocked. Apple's current line is that this is because *Internet Explorer* has "known compatibility issues with modern web standards". This might well be true, but don't be fooled; this is a business decision, not a technical one. *IE* is far and away the most popular browser on the web and has a long and inglorious history of defining the de facto web standards simply by virtue of its market share. You can call it anti-competitive or you can call it democracy, it doesn't really matter. Apple could have supported *IE* if it wanted to and my guess is that eventually it will because the alternative is to let MobileMe wither on the vine. Most Windows iPhone owners won't bother to switch to *Safari* just to use MobileMe. Possibly by the time you read this, Apple will have released a patch that magically addresses the compatibility problems, but as I write this, it's *Safari* or *Firefox* only, I'm afraid.

iMAC G5 ONLY BOOTS ONE TIME IN TEN

Q **I will be mightily impressed if you can help with this one, since I worked in Mac support for years and am generally considered the 'go to' guy for these sorts of issues, and it's got me stumped. I have a G5 1.8GHz with 1.25GB RAM and OS X 10.3.9. It has worked fine for most of its life but recently began not to start up properly. No hardware or software changes have been made to cause it. The Mac now gets as far as the Apple logo grey screen and spinning icon but then invariably the Apple logo turns to a circle with a line through it, meaning the system can't identify the appropriate boot device.**

I have tried all of the following but despite these tricks, it only boots properly about one time in ten, and never consistently using any one technique. Here's what I have tried:
- **Reseated RAM**
- **Repaired disks and run latest updates**
- **Disconnected both internal drives independently**
- **Installed a fresh OS on the**

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from MacWarehouse

TAG, YOU'RE IT!

When the MP3 format was created it was pretty basic – all it contained was compressed audio. If you wanted to tell one MP3 file from another you had to either look at the file name, which isn't a lot of help if it's called TRACK3.MP3, or you had to play the file itself. That's not ideal, especially if you have thousands of music files, so a better way of identifying individual files was needed.

The solution that came about was to add a bit of extra data to the end of the MP3 file, which could be used to contain some information about the file. Only 128 bytes were allocated for data about the file with a bare 30 bytes each for title, artist and album name. This first method for adding data to the file was called ID3v1 and was later extended to also indicate what track on a CD the file was on, and so it became ID3v1.1.

ID3v1 was restrictive since you couldn't store much data about the audio file; this was particularly an issue with classical music – for example, Johan Strauss II's 'Op.126 Joy at Deliverance of Emperor Franz Josef' would take 48 bytes for the title alone, leaving little memory to note the composer, orchestra or conductor. Also, since the tags were stored at the end of the file they didn't work for streaming audio, as you would have to stream the entire file before getting to the tag.

ID3v1
DOLLY PARTON'S
BIGGEST HITS

The answer to this problem was the ID3v2 tag, which, while a replacement for ID3v1, is otherwise unrelated. ID3v2 moves the tags to the front of the file and instead of being prescriptive about what data is stored, where in the tag it is stored and how long each bit can be in the ID3v2 tagging system, it acts as a container into which other blocks of data can be added and this container can stretch as big as it needs to be.

In addition to just storing some basic text about the file, ID3v2 can store pictures, lyrics (including those synched to the music for use as karaoke), Unicode text support for using other languages, volume, equaliser and balance settings, and just about anything else that a

second drive (which completes but it still won't boot properly)

• Tried to boot from the install DVD, which only works about 10% of the time

• Tried booting in safe, single user and verbose modes

When I boot the system in FireWire target mode, its drives pop up on another Mac and can be accessed – running *Disk Utility* shows up no problems at all. Booting the G5 from a disc, however, is highly hit and miss. It also refuses to recognise bootable drives on FireWire and USB 2.

The only idea I have is that the jumpers on the boot drive may be set wrongly (there's only a single pin covered rather than the usual two), but these have never been changed and it worked fine for years, so it seems unlikely. Also, this situation wouldn't explain the non-starting from DVD.

Hollin Jones

iMac boot problems are best approached by a process of elimination.

A Intermittent faults are nearly always hardware problems, but your system won't reliably boot from any hard disk or DVD, which rules out problems with the drives themselves. If the Mac behaves itself once it does manage to boot, we can also rule out heat-related problems. What does that leave? There are two suspects: the power supply and the RAM. A faulty power supply might not be stabilising the voltages to the system board in time to initialise the disks correctly. Faulty RAM might cause some bits low in the memory address range to flip erratically. This could corrupt the interrupt vector table and bork the boot process.

You have already tested the drives in FireWire target mode. The next step is to transplant the drives to another Mac and try booting from them there. If this works reliably, you can try swapping the RAM from the faulty machine and seeing if the fault follows the memory chips. Having ruled out the RAM, try transplanting the power supply and if this still makes no difference, you can conclude that the problem lies with the system board itself.

FOREIGN SONG FAULTS ON iTUNES STORE

Q **I wonder if you're aware of the major and – in my opinion – inexcusable fault in the most recent *iTunes* update: since updating to *iTunes* version 7.7, playing any MP3 (I don't think it affects AAC files) tracks or artists with non-standard alphanumeric characters, for example Sigur Rós, Björk, and Erlend Øye (bearing in mind these have been on my *iTunes* for years and been played before) results in their non-standard/foreign characters being corrupted. So, for example, Sigur Rós changes to Sigur RÛS, Björk becomes Bj^rk, Erlend Øye becomes ÿye and poor old Françoise Hardy is now known as FranÁoise.**

Once a track has been played, or even selected, the title, artist and album fields – or whatever field contains a diacritic – change and this creates a 'new artist' or new album as such. I have changed the file label back but if I play it again it changes itself again.

One way of 'fixing' this is to convert the ID3 tags to v2.4, but as soon as a track is even selected it corrupts the tag, so it's not even a simple case of converting the ID3 tags in one fell swoop and avoiding the chore of having to go back and rename/re-label every track. Understandably, the thought of manually fixing hundreds, possibly thousands, of tracks just does not appeal.

Do you know whether it's being addressed or know when the next update/fix can be expected?

Stuart Willes

A As I was reading your question, I was thinking "ID3 tags bug, ID3 tags bug", so I was a bit disappointed to get to the part where you tell me that you know this is caused by an ID3 tags bug. However, I have just installed the update that takes *iTunes* to 7.7.1 and after a bit of testing of my own, it appears that this bug has now been fixed. ▶

iTunes 7.7.1 appears to solve a problem some have had with foreign ID3 tags.

QUICK TIP

Accept selected button

Pressing the [Enter] key will have the same effect as clicking the blue button on any dialog box. Hitting [Esc] is functionally the same as clicking the **Cancel** button.

QUICK TIP

Bypass Empty Trash warnings

If you don't want to be warned every time you empty the Trash, click Finder > Preferences > Advanced and clear the check box that says **Show Warning Before Emptying the Trash**. Holding the ⌥ key down will disable the warning for just the current delete.

developer wants to add to it. The ID3v2 tags are also designed so that if an application doesn't know how to deal with a block of data it simply ignores it. Since both types of ID3 tag contain data about data they are a form of metadata. If you want to know more about the informal standard for ID3v2 blocks of data, or frames, you can take a look at **www.id3.org/Frames**.

iTunes shows data to the user no matter what type of tag the file has, but if you have an MP3 file with ID3v1 tags and want to add the sort of metadata that ID3v2 enables you can ⌘-click on the file in *iTunes* and select **Convert ID3 Tags**.

ID3 tags, of either type, only work with MP3 and MP3Pro files. So if you buy music from the iTunes Store or rip your own CDs using the AAC or Apple Lossless formats you won't be using ID3 tags to store your metadata about your audio. Instead, Apple has defined its own tagging scheme, the details of which have not been published by Apple, but a number of people have worked out how data is stored. If you want to dig into the tags that are used by *iTunes* for AAC files then *Media Rage* from Chaotic Software (**www.chaoticsoftware.com/ProductPages/MediaRage.html**) is a good start.

If you want to manipulate the tags for batches of files, have a look at **http://dougscripts.com** where Doug Adams maintains a massive archive of scripts (446 at the last count) for doing all sorts of things with *iTunes*.

ID3v2
Diggory

Bill Gallop is Technical Manager of MacWarehouse
www.macwarehouse.co.uk

QUICK TIP

Spotlight dictionary

You can use Spotlight as a dictionary in Leopard. Anything you type there will automatically be looked up in the built-in dictionary and the definition displayed in the results list. Hover over it to see an even longer definition.

PREFERENCES ISSUES WITH AIRPORT

Q Can you help with an irritating problem? I use AirPort to connect to the router for my internet connection and it works very well. I used to use an Ethernet connection to the router. At first I had no problems, but for the past two or three months I've been finding that when I boot up, as well as the AirPort connecting, my Ethernet tries to connect. It does this three times, each time failing to find a connection – obviously, as there's no cable – then it goes quiet for the rest of the session.

If I go to Network > System Preferences everything shows red as it's not connected, except for AirPort. The lock is closed, but I keep finding it open – no one has access but me. I have run *iAntivirus* in its most snoopy mode, but it reports that all is well. Do I have a Trojan?

I'm running 10.5.4. Any suggestions you have would be welcome.

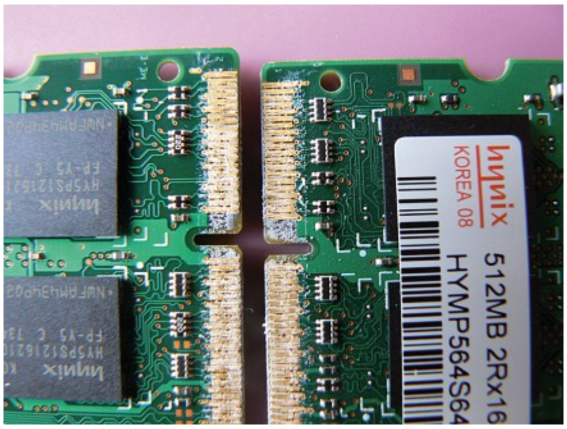
Michael Costen

A It's not a Trojan or a virus – remember the first rule of troubleshooting: it's *never* a virus. Leaping to the paranoid "I've been hacked/I've got a virus" explanation will send you on a long and fruitless wild goose chase that makes it almost impossible to calmly work through the troubleshooting process. Let blaming malware be your *last* resort, not your first.

Preference panes can get unlocked when software installers put their own preference panes in System > Library > PreferencePanes or Library > PreferencePanes. Since these folders are owned by root, you'll be prompted to enter your Administrator password before it can proceed, but once you have done this, all the preference panes will be unlocked.

As to what is trying to access your Ethernet connection, it's hard to say but you can disable the connection by going to System Preferences > Network. Click the entry for **Built-in Ethernet** and then click the cog icon at the bottom to get the drop-down list of actions for that network interface. Choose **Make Service Inactive** and you'll see the interface greyed out, rather than it being labelled Not Connected. Regardless of whether your preferences are locked or unlocked, this connection won't get changed back to Active unless you, or someone else, goes in to change the setting.

Don't blame malware – it's likely to be the last of the possible causes to network problems with AirPort.



Nick Ford's memory card corrosion is caused by some kind of salt, not the mix of tin and gold.

CORROSION IN A MACBOOK'S MEMORY

Q I bought a MacBook 2.2 GHz Dual Core last Christmas and have decided to upgrade the memory from 1GHz to 4GHz. When I came to remove the old memory, I was horrified to discover that, after only six months, the gold edge connectors had corroded severely. I enclose a photo [above] to show the extent of the damage.

According to Scott Mueller, in *Upgrading and Repairing PCs* (10th ed. page 959), tin or gold contacts on memory modules should be matched to the socket contacts. If you mix dissimilar metals (tin with gold), corrosion on the tin side is rapidly accelerated and tiny electrical currents are generated, causing memory problems and errors within a year, typically. I did not attempt to disassemble the MacBook(!), but I wonder if the socket contacts are tin.

This makes me wonder…

a) If the memory modules are in this state, what condition are the socket contacts likely to be in?

b) I usually put the MacBook into sleep mode, so would this exacerbate any electrolytic action.

Nick Ford

A First of all, whatever else this may be, it's definitely not tin/gold corrosion. That phenomenon, known as fretting, occurs

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

SECURITY UPDATE 2008-005 ISSUES

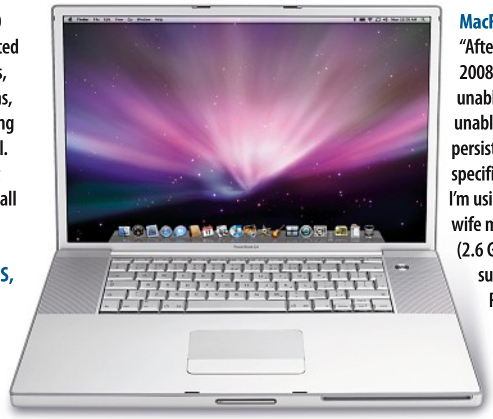
Several MacFixIt readers have reported an inability to boot their Macs after installing Security Update 2008-005. If this issue occurs, you should try to boot in Safe Mode – done by holding down the ⇧ key while your Mac is starting up. After the safe boot, restart normally. A number of maintenance tasks are performed during the safe boot, and you might not need to perform any additional troubleshooting. You might receive a message indicating that the update has finished installing after performing the safe boot.

Failing the aforementioned, peruse our tutorial titled "Startup fails (particularly after a system or security update); solving" (www.macfixit.com/article.php?story=20060322080433175). One of the solutions listed there – including deleting specific caches, rooting out problematic kernel extensions, repairing drive damage, and disconnecting external devices – might prove successful.

As a last resort, you may need to boot from your Mac OS X install disc and reinstall the system, as described in the tutorial.

SYSTEMIC ISSUES: CANNOT DRAG ITEMS, WRITE FILES AND SO ON

Some users have reported a series of systemic issues after the 2008-005 update, including an inability to drag and drop files, an write files and more.



MacFixIt reader Peter Row writes:

"After the attempt to install Security Update 2008-005 I was unable to save anything, unable to drag and drop, and sometimes unable to even open the **File** menu. This persisted across multiple applications (I specifically tried *Safari*, *Preview* and *TextEdit*). I'm using a 1.0 GHz PowerBook (PowerPC). My wife made the same install on her MacBook Pro (2.6 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo). I verified the disc successfully (*Disk Utility*), but was unable to Repair Permissions via *Disk Utility*, it seemed to be unable to read the permissions file. I am currently in the process of attempting to back off all the data, erase, and re-install. The first

JUMPING MOUSE | Irregular tracking issues

Q **I got a 24-inch iMac delivered just before Christmas last year with a Mighty Mouse now tethered to the aluminium keyboard USB contact. An annoying problem, although not fatal, is a jumping mouse cursor. It didn't bother me too much initially but then I followed some advice and made the screen corners active. I shouldn't have done that because intermittently the screen started to suddenly go to sleep. That is, the mouse cursor just suddenly decided to move to one of the screen corners. I disabled the active corners but now I am much more aware of the involuntary cursor movement and it has started to annoy me. I did a search and found the problem listed for several computers, although mainly laptops. I followed some simple advice such as decreasing the speed of mouse movement and installing the *SteerMouse* driver but the cursor now moved to another corner.**

Any advice on the likely problem? I'm running the latest version of OS X 10.5.4 but updates have made no change. I read about changing the mouse mat, motherboard shorts, preference files and so on but I would prefer a solid lead before starting to experiment. I could go for the simplest solution and buy another mouse mat. I could replace the mouse or I could simply use my AppleCare Protection Plan. But working in Italy without even basic Italian knowledge will make it difficult to explain the situation.

Stefan Fabiansson

A It's not the mouse mat. You don't actually need a mouse mat at all with an optical mouse – as long as you have a tiny bit of vertical and horizontal texture on the mousing surface, the pointer should track properly.

Try plugging the mouse into the back of the iMac, rather than into the keyboard. If that makes no difference, swap for a different mouse. I think it's more likely that this is related to USB bus contention or some other hardware issue than any settings in the mouse driver.

because tin oxidises readily in air to form an insulating layer. Where tin connectors plug into tin sockets, this isn't a problem because tin is a soft metal and the brittle oxide layer breaks and exposes fresh metal when the connector is inserted. Gold, though, is much harder and it tends to push particles of tin oxide into the tin, which gradually increases the resistance of the tin contact. In addition, the tin tends to migrate to the gold contact, where it oxidises and sticks, so the gold contact loses conductivity as well. You can read more about the exact process involved in the excellent white papers on Tyco Electronics's site at **www.tycoelectronics.com**.

Anyway, the point is that gold/tin fretting looks like a dull discolouration on the metal contacts themselves. What you have is some kind of white powder deposited right the way across the connecting edge of the memory module, both on the metal and the plastic PCB surface.

I've never seen this before but my guess is that it's some kind of salt deposition, possibly caused by exposing the laptop to sea air. I don't think it's particularly serious – just give the edges a wipe with a damp cloth, let them dry naturally and reinsert them. If you insert and remove the modules a few times, you should be able to shift any salt deposits from the socket. Don't worry about sleeping the MacBook, I don't believe this will make any difference either way.

WONKY PRINTING FROM PREVIEW

Q **Since I updated to Leopard, when I print PDF documents from *Preview*, the font is altered compared to the original. It appears with a sans serif font (I don't know which one) even if the original is in, say, Times New Roman. This is a nuisance because the print font lacks various characters that are present in the original, such as + and <, and ff (two fs together) doesn't print at all – there's only a blank space. I can find nothing in Preferences, the menus, or the Help files that would help me to correct this. It only happens on my new aluminium iMac, not on the white Intel iMac I use at work. Printing from *Preview* works fine on the same HP LaserJet from another home iMac that's not updated to Leopard.**

Mike Startup

A Your PDF files evidently don't use embedded fonts and the Mac that you updated to Leopard doesn't have the font you need to print the document. *Preview* is thus forced to substitute a different one. The strange thing is that Times LT MM is one of the required core fonts in Leopard – you can't delete it

QUICK TIP

Resolutions icon

If you change display resolutions often, you can open **Display Preferences** and tick the box marked **Show Displays in Menu Bar**. This will give you a menu icon that you can right-click to switch resolutions.

attempt at backing off the data resulted in an error (using *Disk Utility* on a different machine, and with my PowerBook in Target Disk mode – invalid argument error.)"

Another reader adds: "For some reason after installing the latest security update I cannot drag any icons on my Intel Mac. 10.5.4." If you are experiencing a similar issue, try reapplying the most recent Mac OS X combo updater, available from Apple's download page, then reinstalling the Security Update.

SCREEN RESOLUTION PROBLEMS

Some users are reporting that system display is adversely affected by Security Update 2008-005. In many cases, simply toggling screen resolution to a different setting, then back to the desired setting can resolve this issue.

One reader writes: "Since it appeared to be some sort of screen resolution issue, and since I could access the Apple menu, I called up *System Preferences* and selected the Displays panel. The settings looked normal (1,280x800). But when I selected 1,152x720, the screen filled with a normal desktop (albeit with the 1,152x720 resolution). Progress! Then I switched it back to 1,280x800, and I had my old Desktop back!"

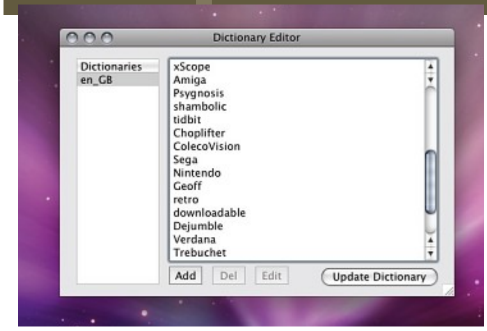
iTUNES LIBRARIES GET DISMISSED

iTunes users are running into a problem in which *iTunes* displays an error message and doesn't load the library. The error message states the library was damaged and has been renamed, and when *iTunes* opens it creates a new library that's blank.

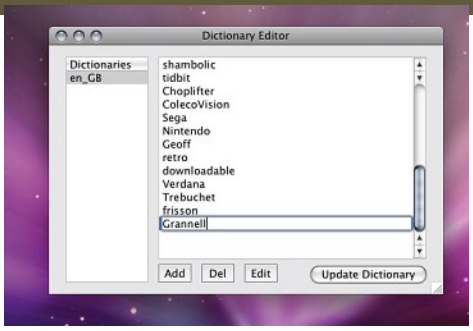
Per Apple Discussions poster Mathieu: "*iTunes* told me that my *iTunes* library was damaged and that it renamed my library to '*iTunes* Library (Damaged)'. Then, when I opened my *iTunes* again, everything was missing!"

This has occurred for users who have their libraries in the standard ~/Music folder, as well as for those who've located their libraries elsewhere, such as on external drives. The cause for this problem is not yet known, but given the widespread occurrence it is most likely

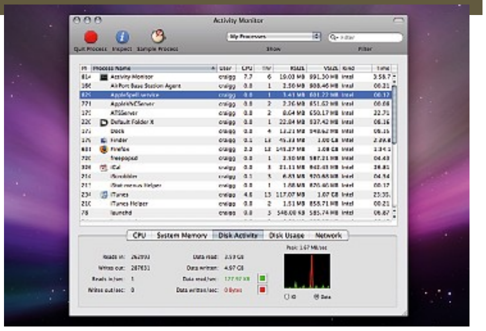
STEP BY STEP | Edit custom dictionary entries



01 Despite its bare-bones nature, *Dictionary Editor* (**pariahware.com/dictionaryeditor.php**, and reviewed on page 103) enables you to rapidly add, delete and edit custom entries you've made to your system-wide spellchecker. Open the application and select a dictionary to see entries you've made.



02 To amend an existing entry, select it and click **Del** or **Edit**, depending on whether you want to delete or edit it. Click **Add** to add an entirely new entry. Once you're done, save the changes to your custom dictionary by clicking the **Update Dictionary** button.



03 For changes to take effect, you can log-out and back in again. Alternatively, open **Activity Monitor** and quit **AppleSpell.service**, the system-wide spelling service. You'll then need to restart applications that make use of this service for it to fire itself up again. ●

QUICK TIP

Stack your folders

If you drag a folder onto the Dock in Leopard, it automatically becomes a stack. This makes it much quicker to jump to files in that folder instead of navigating there using *Finder*.

and if you try, it will resurrect itself because the operating system will copy it back again from another location. Even if the correct font wasn't embedded in the PDF, *Preview* ought to have substituted this font for Times New Roman, rather than using a sans serif font. The fact that it hasn't suggests that you have a font conflict. This occurs when two or more fonts are installed with the same internal name in RAM.

How duplicate font names are handled is undefined and it depends on the application, but a very common approach is just to delete all the conflicting fonts from that application's font list. If you have a font conflict for Times LT MM or Times New Roman, this could be the reason for the behaviour you find yourself experiencing.

There is a pretty good guide to OS X fonts at **www.jklstudios.com/misc/osxfontsdraft.html** that should help you decide which fonts you actually need and enable you track down any conflicting duplicates.

CONNECTION DROPS WHEN STREAMING

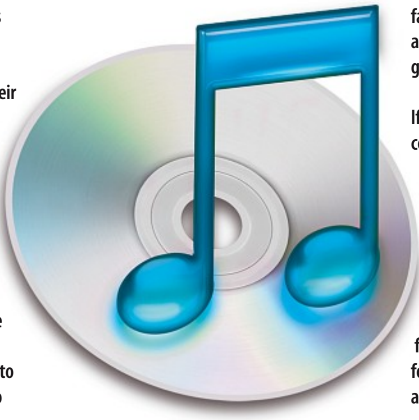
Q **I'm accustomed to listening to music while I'm working, sometimes using *iTunes* but mostly radio stations such as 6 Music via *Safari*. Recently, however, I've found that the sound cuts out after a couple of minutes. It will usually reconnect after a short pause but if I'm using the Listen Again feature, this will reset the program and I have to start again from the beginning. Also, if I am playing *World of Warcraft* when this happens, I seem to get disconnected at the same time. I'm using Leopard on an Intel iMac with all the new software updates downloaded. What can I do about this?**
Sue Abbot

A I believe you're suffering from the bug in the BBC iPlayer that resets certain broadband routers. The reason the sound cuts out is that your entire internet connection is interrupted and obviously this will log you out of *World of Warcraft* as well. When your router resets, it will automatically log you back in to your ISP but this a) takes a minute or two and b) does nothing to re-establish any sessions you had at the application level. It is, in other words, a right royal pain.

There is no fix for this, but there is a workaround because the problem only occurs with the *JavaScript* version of the iPlayer. If you temporarily disable *JavaScript* by clearing the check box (Safari > Preferences > Security) before you click the link to your radio show, the BBC website will play the show through *RealPlayer* instead. It will complain that you are missing out on the best possible listening experience but you can ignore this. No amount of audio quality is worth

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

a bug in *iTunes* that is causing this problem. As of yet no preventative fix has surfaced, but to regain use of *iTunes* users can either restore a backup of their *iTunes* libraries or re-import their songs into the new library.



FIXES

- Restore library from backup:

Locate a recent backup of the *iTunes* Library file either in *Time Machine* or other backup solution, and restore it to the *iTunes* folder, overwriting the blank library that *iTunes* created. It might also be a good idea to restore both the *iTunes* Library as well as the iTunes Music Library.xml files from the same backup, to ensure compatibility. Some users have gone so far as to restore the entire *iTunes* folder, music and all; and while this may be a fix-all solution, going this far shouldn't be necessary.

- Re-import all songs into the new library:

If library statistics, such as the play times and counts for songs, are not important, then users may re-import their music collections back into *iTunes* to populate the new library. This may take some time, depending on the size of the user's library. To do this, check **Preferences** to ensure the library location is where you want it (Preferences > Advanced > General). Open *iTunes* and in the **iTunes** folder drag the contents of the **iTunes Music** folder to the **iTunes** window. This will catalogue and import all songs into the new library.

TIPS SUPPLIED BY MACFIXIT.COM

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

dropping your internet connection every three minutes for.

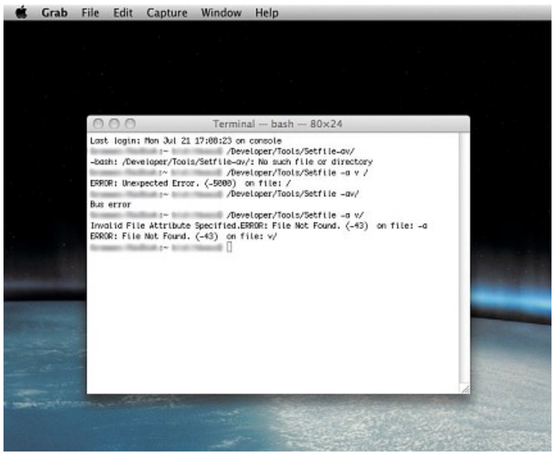
SETFILE STILL DOESN'T WORK

Q **Thanks for answering my question in issue 198 about my Macintosh HD icon disappearing from my Desktop. I tried to solve the problem in the way you suggested but I didn't get it to work and wasn't sure if I had done something wrong?**

It wasn't clear if there were any spaces between characters so I tried a few versions. I'd appreciate another look at this if possible and any further suggestions your experts might have for me? I installed the *Xcode* developer tools off the original 10.5 DVD as you instructed me to do.

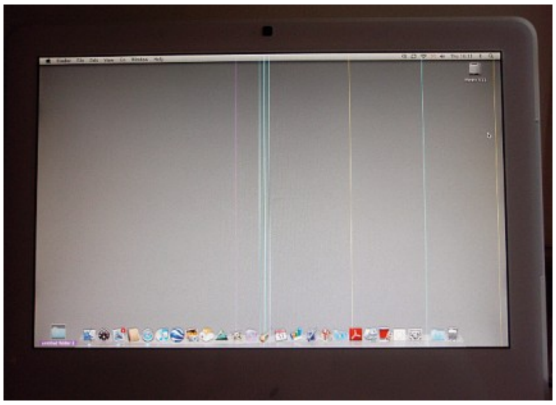
Graeme Carswell

A The correct syntax is: /Developer/Tools/setfile –a V / There is a space between 'setfile' and '-a', another one between '-a' and V and a third between V and /. This is one of the options you tried and it didn't work because you used a lowercase V and it needs to be uppercase. This was my fault. I keep forgetting just how ruthlessly case-sensitive Unix-based operating systems are. Also don't forget that you need admin rights to perform this operation. If your user account doesn't have root access, preface the whole line with 'sudo' to grant administration rights for that command only.



```
Last login: Mon Jul 21 17:08:23 on console
[redacted]:~ [redacted] /Developer/Tools/Setfile-av/
-bash: /Developer/Tools/Setfile-av/: No such file or directory
[redacted]:~ [redacted] /Developer/Tools/Setfile -a v /
ERROR: Unexpected Error. (-5000)  on file: /
[redacted]:~ [redacted] /Developer/Tools/Setfile -av/
Bus error
[redacted]:~ [redacted] /Developer/Tools/Setfile -a v/
Invalid File Attribute Specified.ERROR: File Not Found. (-43)  on file: -a
ERROR: File Not Found. (-43)  on file: v/
[redacted]:~ [redacted] 
```

When entering *Terminal* commands, don't forget that Unix-based systems are case-sensitive.



Vertical lines on your iMac G5? Get it replaced for free via the Repair Extension Program.

MACBOOK'S RED LIGHT QUERY

Q **The red light in the centre of the top part of the frame of the screen on my MacBook does not light up at present. Do you think this is a problem?**

Peter Lennon

A You don't mean the iSight webcam do you? You do? Well, it doesn't light up because it's not a light. It's a webcam. Open the *Photo Booth* application and you'll see how you can use it to capture video.

VERTICAL LINES ON iMAC SCREEN

Q **Over the last few months very fine multicoloured vertical lines have been appearing on the screen of my iMac, which is just over two years old. Do you have any suggestions for how to get rid of them? Or is it a fault of the screen itself? Is this a common fault with iMacs and should I invest in a new one if this can't be fixed?**

Roger Currie

A This is a fault that affected a batch of G5 iMacs with faulty LCD units – it's not the inverter or the logic board, it's the screen itself, which makes it very expensive to fix. Worse still is that the fault only seems to manifest on machines that are more than a year old (and therefore out of warranty, unless you have purchased AppleCare). But luckily, Apple has something called the iMac G5 Repair Extension Program, which will replace your screen for free, providing that your serial number falls within the specific range that has been identified as coming from the faulty batch. You can find out more about this at **www.apple.com/uk/support/exchange_repair/imac.html**. But remember, though, you'll need to pay for shipping in each direction.

If yours is an Intel iMac or doesn't have a qualifying serial number then you are probably going to have to foot the whole bill yourself. LCD screens do sometimes malfunction and unfortunately they aren't cheap to replace. If you want to save some money though, I recommend that you simply get a replacement standalone LCD monitor and plug that into the iMac as an external display. Even for a same sized and similarly specced screen, this will often work out cheaper than the cost of buying a direct screen replacement at an authorised Apple repair centre. ●

ON THE FORUM

Swift responses to members' questions

Q My employer has just bought a MacBook Air because of its portability. Up to now he has been a confirmed Windows user, but he's now threatening to abandon it because he is experiencing huge difficulties accessing his email (supplied by BT previously on *Outlook* with our own bespoke email addresses) on the Air. He, obviously, has Mac *Mail*. He also has Microsoft *Office* for Mac on the Air so he can access *Entourage*. Can someone give me some simple steps for him to follow, bearing in mind that he dislikes technology, so that he can access his email easily when he goes on holiday tomorrow?

Julian Joined: 25 Apr 2004 Posts: 374 Location: Nailsworth, Gloucestershire

A What are the "difficulties" he's been experiencing? If you're using an *Exchange* server, you might be better off switching to *Entourage*. This sounds like a setting-it-up question you really need to be addressing with the ISP in question. Also, if all else fails, he should be able to access his emails using his ISP's website.

Ian Osborne Joined: 28 Jan 2005 Posts: 368 Location: Stafford

A Also, be aware that when he's on holiday and using a different ISP to his home/office, he won't be able to send emails using any email software until he changes the Outgoing Server to the ISP's SMTP server. You'll be able to get this info from the ISP he's connecting to. This issue isn't a Mac-related one, it would be exactly the same if using a Windows PC – it's a measure put in place by many ISPs to reduce the amount of spammers sending out unsolicited emails. He will, however, be able to receive emails without changing the email software's Incoming Server – it's only the Outgoing Server that needs changing when you connect to another ISP's network. For sending/receiving emails on the move, I'd recommend you look at your ISP's web mail option – nearly all providers have one. You simply visit their website, log in to your account with your username and password and check emails online. Or he could use a Hotmail or GMX account while he's on holiday.

MacOS10 Joined: 20 Oct 2005 Posts: 1139 Location: Manchester

Q I purchased my MacBook yesterday and it's my first Mac. I must say I would never buy a PC again but I'm unsure of how I should look after my battery. If I'm using a power supply should I leave the battery in or out because I heard that it can drain the battery if you leave it out, but I've heard that the life will shorten if you leave it in.

AnthonyIOW Joined: 04 Aug 2008 Posts: 1

A Leave the battery in the MacBook when using it on mains power – even if the battery is fully charged. The MacBook (unlike the earlier models) was designed that way and will be fine. If you remove the battery and use the power adaptor the MacBook's processor will run at 1GHz, which is not good news.

Tintin07 Joined: 26 Jun 2008 Posts: 8

Join our forum at **http://forum.macformat.co.uk**

computer arts projects Issue 115
The print design issue
Master the latest trends and new technologies
Print

Computer Arts Projects:
The print design issue

Issue on sale_now
WHSmith•Borders•Barnes & Noble
computerarts.co.uk

Reviews

Read the best independent reviews of all the latest hardware and software every month, before parting with your cash

This issue, we have some great names in the software section, including *QuarkXPress 8*, *Mellel 2.5* and onOne *Plugin Suite 4*. It's a mix of desktop publishing apps and utilities to keep things running smoothly. Also *TuneRanger* is definitely worth casting your eye over if you want to sync your *iTunes* library across multiple iPods and Macs.

Our hardware section is dominated by travel-related products this month. Canon's new EOS 1000D camera is reviewed in depth, along with Brenthaven's new Sling Backpack, some portable travelling mice, a solar charger, as well as Slingbox and EyeTV DTT, both of which can help record your favourite TV shows while you go off and take a break.

The month's regular shareware round-up and new iPhone app reviews follow our main reviews, and we finish off with the Group Test, which looks at six desktop speaker sets to go with your Mac.

James

QuarkXPress 8 DTP app **p82**

Canon EOS 1000D SLR **p95**

Desktop Mac speakers **p104**

Reviewed this issue…

SOFTWARE

QuarkXPress 8 82
Vara Software ScreenFlow 1.2 84
Lexcycle Stanza 1.0 beta 84
Redlex Mellel 2.5 85
Smith Micro Internet Cleanup 5.0 86
onOne Software Plug-In Suite 4 87
DJ 1800 3.1 88
Acertant TuneRanger 88

HARDWARE

Elgato EyeTV DTT deluxe 90
Sennheiser MM50 IP 90
Pro-Ject Debut III Phono/USB turntable 91
Line 6 Pocket Pod 92
Marantz IS 201 92
Sling Media Slingbox PRO 93
Branthaven Sling Backpack 94
Imono HI-2503 94
Canon EOS 1000D 95
Logitech v550 Nano Laptop 96
Autosafe CubeByte 96
Solio Magnesium Edition 96
Genius Traveler 350 96

GROUP TEST

Desktop speakers 104

Our logos explained

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

A product that receives the **MacFormat Choice** is the best in its class at the time of review, and a product on which we would be happy to spend our own money.

Mac FORMAT Winner

Used only in our Group Tests, the **MacFormat Winner** award indicates the hardware or software that we feel stands out from the crowd, and therefore warrants you spending your cash.

Mac FORMAT Exclusive

We aim to bring you reviews just as soon as we can get our hands on samples of new products or software. We pride ourselves on bringing you exclusive reviews.

Mac FORMAT On the disc

Wherever you see this logo you'll find either test versions or useful files associated with the review. These items are on the DVD to add value to our reviews section.

Reviews you can trust

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. Suppliers never see a review until the magazine hits the newsagents.

The price we quote for each product is the lowest we could find online from a reputable dealer at time of writing; for the latest prices see the TechRadar URL that accompanies each review.

Our star ratings

★★★★★	Excellent – MacFormat choice
★★★★☆	Very Good – recommended
★★★☆☆	Good – but you could buy better
★★☆☆☆	Adequate – needs more development
★☆☆☆☆	Poor – keep your money in your wallet

PROFESSIONAL PUBLISHING PLATFORM

QuarkXPress 8

Mac FORMAT On the disc

£915 (upgrade £328) Is QuarkXPress 8 good enough to take the DTP throne?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Quark
http://8.quark.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/458204

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4, G5 or Intel, 256MB RAM, 1GB disk space, DVD drive

FOR AND AGAINST

- ➕ All-in-one print, web and *Flash* tools
- ➕ *Photoshop* and *Illustrator* compatible
- ➕ Good email and phone support
- ➕ Massively improved interface
- ➕ Improved typographic controls
- ➖ Expensive

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A major upgrade that finally makes QuarkXPress a serious DTP contender once more."

Who is king of the DTP world? In the 1990s it was *Quark*; this decade Adobe *InDesign* took over, but the new *QuarkXPress 8* could take the crown back. In case you don't know already, pretty much every magazine you read will have been made with *InDesign* or *QuarkXPress*. But while Adobe took *InDesign* from strength to strength, Quark seemed unable to pull something really new and good out of the bag. Until now, that is.

Granted, if you don't lay out pages for a living this won't affect you directly, but it's still a hugely important thing in the professional publishing world. The rest of us can carry on with Apple's *Pages*, the open-source *Scribus* or whatever more affordable page-design software you prefer, but the fight between *QuarkXPress* and Adobe *InDesign* will lead the way for all the other layout software on the market.

QuarkXPress
8
QuarkXPress
Xperience Design
Quark
Quark

Quark has pulled out all the stops to bring a powerful DTP package to the market.

New look

The *QuarkXPress* interface is radically different in appearance; it looks really at home in Leopard – shading and shadows make the tools and palettes feel soft on the eye, and even the edge of the page on the 'pasteboard' looks like a real shadow rather than the blocked-out line of old. Many users will spend a lot of their working day in this program, so it's important that it looks and feels like an elegant, well-built tool.

Working with it is better, too. The **Tools** palette that experienced users will know like the back of their hand has changed – but in a good way. There are fewer tools on display, they're more logically organised, and they're also smarter than before. The **Text Content** tool icon is also a fly-out menu that contains the **Link** and **Unlink** tools for flowing text between different boxes. The **Bézier Pen** tool is a fly-out menu, and it contains a total of seven related tools. But this doesn't mean you have to click-wait-drag to get the tool you want. Each **Tools** palette icon has a single-key shortcut, just like those in Adobe's *Creative Suite* software, and using it repeatedly cycles through the items in the fly-out menu.

Putting layouts together is a more flexible process. The last big update to *QuarkXPress* brought support for importing native *Photoshop* files, complete with the ability to mess around with individual layers in those images. Okay, you can't reorder them – but you can hide and show different layers, ink channels or paths as you like, and change the opacity and ink blending modes of individual layers. This hasn't been enhanced, but to be fair this is still a little ahead of *InDesign's Photoshop* file support. What's new here is native *Illustrator* file support. You can import a regular AI graphic as if it was an old-fashioned EPS, and you get a better preview, too. Unfortunately you don't get access to layers in your *Illustrator* graphic, but the key benefit is not needing to make exported versions of graphics for your layouts.

> "QuarkXPress now supports drag and drop importing from Finder, Bridge, iPhoto and elsewhere"

Import options

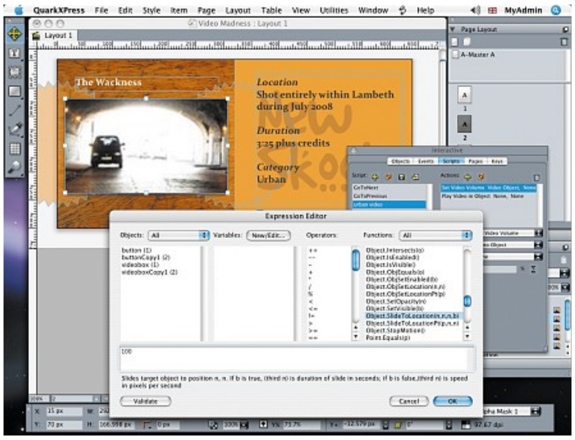
QuarkXPress now supports drag and drop for importing from *Finder*, Adobe *Bridge*, *iPhoto*, and elsewhere. That's right, it couldn't do this before now – but it has finally caught up. And once you've switched to the new **Picture Content** tool by double-clicking a graphic, you'll see areas outside the container box as a ghosted image, and handles appear to let you resize and rotate the image.

But hold on, this is more than just a print design tool – the web design features are surprisingly competent! This shouldn't be seen as a real substitute for serious web-specific design tools, but you can make very competent web layouts with a fair degree of fine-tuning control. Repurposing existing layouts is the biggest wow factor here; take an existing print design and turn it into a web one in a couple of clicks! Okay, in reality you'll need to do more work to get things tidy and functional, but this can still save huge amounts of time.

Interactive Designer

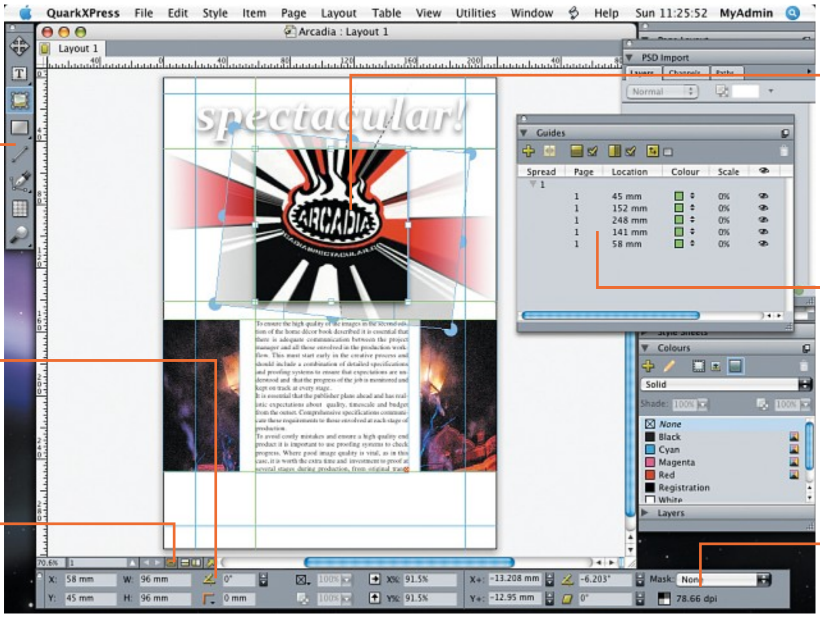
What might just excite you more is that Quark's *Interactive Designer*, an XTension plug-in that turns the software into a *Flash* content creation platform, is now built in. Instead of battling with *Flash's* counterintuitive timeline-based interface, you can make interactive SWF media layouts

The Interactive Designer features make *Shockwave Flash* content creation a regular layout design process, but enable you to create code-rich productions, too.


QuarkXPress File Edit Style Item Page Layout Table View Utilities Window Help
MyAdmin
Video Madness : Layout 1
Layout 1
Page Layout
A-Master A
The Wackness
Location
Shot entirely within Lambeth during July 2008
Duration
3:25 plus credits
Category
Urban
Interactive
Objects Events Scripts Pages Keys
Script:
Actions:
GoToNext
GoToPrevious
urban video
Set Video Volume: Video Object, None
Play Video in Object: None, None
Expression Editor
Objects: All
Variables: New/Edit...
Operators:
Functions: All
button (1)
buttonCopy1 (2)
videobox (1)
videoboxCopy1 (2)
Object.Intersects(o)
Object.IsEnabled()
Object.IsVisible()
Object.ObjEquals(o)
Object.ObjSetEnabled(b)
Object.ObjSetLocation(n,n)
Object.ObjSetLocationPt(p)
Object.SetOpacity(n)
Object.SetVisible(b)
Object.SlideToLocation(n,n,n,b)
Object.SlideToLocationPt(p,n,n)
Object.StopMotion()
Point.Equals(p)
100
Validate
Cancel
OK
X: 15 px
Y: 70 px
H: 166.998 px
0 px
97.67 dpi

Slides target object to position n, n. If b is true, (third n) is duration of slide in seconds; if b is false,(third n) is speed in pixels per second

THE INTERFACE | Finding your way around the new-look workspace


QuarkXPress File Edit Style Item Page Layout Table View Utilities Window Help Sun 11:25:52 MyAdmin
Arcadia : Layout 1
Layout 1
spectacular!
ARCADIA
PSD Import
Normal
Guides
Spread Page Location Colour Scale
45 mm
152 mm
248 mm
141 mm
58 mm
Colours
Solid
None
Black
Cyan
Magenta
Red
Registration
White
Layers
70.6%
X: 58 mm
Y: 45 mm
W: 96 mm
H: 96 mm
X%: 91.5%
Y%: 91.5%
X+: -13.208 mm
Y+: -12.95 mm
-6.203°
Mask: None
78.66 dpi

Simplified Tools palette
The new design for the **Tools** palette simplifies the appearance, with features such as the **Picture Content** tool, and through the clever use of fly-out menus.

Comprehensive Measurements palette
The **Measurements** palette is hardly new, but has been refined into a context-sensitive powerhouse of a palette – an indispensable DTP tool indeed.

Quick view icons
The icons at the window's base enable you to jump to the master page, split the view, export the layout, or preview as an SWF file.

Rotate and scale easily
The **Picture Content** tool lets you work directly with the content of image boxes, right in the page and with a ghosted preview of the cropped image areas.

Full guides controls
The **Guides** palette provides all the controls you need to manage the guides on your pages, from creating and editing to hiding and showing them and duplicating them across pages.

Image information
You can access embedded image masks (alpha channels) in selected graphics, and also check whether the resolution is acceptable for your chosen output process.

with a mature, sophisticated layout tool! Anything you can create in a regular print page can be used in an interactive one, and you have a huge range of features for event triggers, if-then conditional statements, grabbing external data on-the-fly, path-based animation, video embedding, and much more. Sure, *Flash* can go further in the hands of a dedicated specialist, but few people can manage it anyway.

Grids and guides are the foundation of good, repeatable design, and the new *XPress* has taken this concept (so poorly managed in previous versions) and put it centre-stage. Page guides can still be made by dragging them in from rulers, as it has been since time immemorial. But the new **Guides** palette grants us the ability to make guides with the **Guide Attributes** dialog window – type the location, pick the orientation and colour, click **Add**, and there it is. Then, back in the **Guides** palette, you can manage each one of those guides individually: reposition one, hide and show it, mirror or even toggle between vertical and horizontal, duplicate it to other pages, or just delete it. But this is nothing compared to the **Grids** feature. You'll need to take some time getting your head around it, but this is a way to set up design grids using type size measures (so everything snaps together when you use it), and saving and applying them just like you can do already using character and paragraph styles for type. This is traditional design grids on steroids: nothing's come close to this level of functionality!

QuarkXPress vs InDesign
So where's the catch? Is *QuarkXPress* really going to take over the publishing and design world, again? All the new features means it's certainly not too little, but is it too late? Well, the big problem is cost. This program has always been incredibly expensive, and that's not changed. Buying *QuarkXPress 8* from scratch will cost you a cool £915. That's a lot in anyone's book. If you're upgrading from a previous version it will cost £328. This is more reasonable, although still not cheap. Now compare this with Adobe *Creative Suite Design Standard*: £158 for the upgrade, £1,051 otherwise. Ouch. So things aren't as clear-cut as we'd assumed.

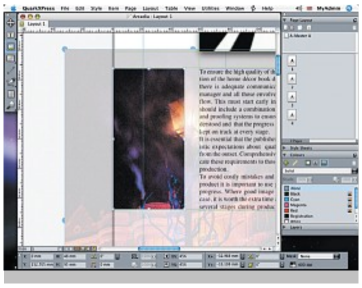
The *Creative Suite* gives you *Illustrator* and *Photoshop* along with *InDesign*, but it still costs a fair bit more, whereas *QuarkXPress* provides workable web page layout features and very good *Flash* content creation. If it shipped for under the £500 mark it would sweep the board. But as it is, it's still really for the pros. So, if you're not already a *QuarkXPress* or *InDesign* user, all this is probably moot, although if anything it's great proof that DTP development certainly isn't a stagnant market.
Caspian Kidd

THE TOP THREE | XPress's best bits

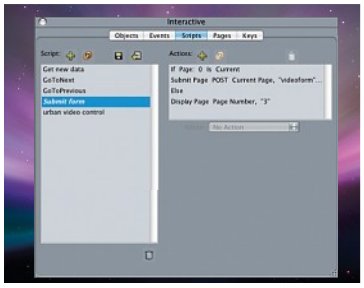
New interface
The importance of the new look of *QuarkXPress 8* shouldn't be underestimated. From the reorganised **Tools** palette to the snap-together panels, and right down to subtle things such as highlighting the pasteboard of the current page, it presents a consistent, modern look to the user.

Style Sheets
No Style
Normal
No Style
Normal

Picture Content
The new **Picture Content** tool, a specialised development of the old **Content Selection** tool, makes image manipulation on the page incredibly easy. It may seem like a simple gimmick at first, but it makes the layout process far more fluid than it was in previous versions.



Interactive Designer
Creating rich, interactive *Flash*-style SWF content for websites is much simpler to do in *QuarkXPress* than in *Flash*. All the interactive features are packed into the **Interactive Designer** palette, but you're free to use any regular DTP feature available, from stylesheets to image cropping and rotation.


Interactive
Objects Events Scripts Pages Keys
Script:
Get new data
GoToNext
GoToPrevious
Submit form
urban video control
Actions
If Page: 0 Is Current
Submit Page POST Current Page, "videoform"...
Else
Display Page Page Number, "3"
No Action

SCREENCAST RECORDER AND EDITOR

Vara Software ScreenFlow 1.2

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

Mac FORMAT On the disc

£65 Capture, edit, experiment with, and export screencasts with ease

CONTACT INFO

Developer Vara Software
http://varasoftware.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/458448

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.5 or later

FOR AND AGAINST

- ➕ Excellent performance
- ➕ User-friendly interface
- ➕ Straightforward editing
- ➕ Callouts, effects and zooms
- ➖ No titling function
- ➖ Can't drag media between projects

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A best-in-class application that's only likely to get even better due to forthcoming software revisions."

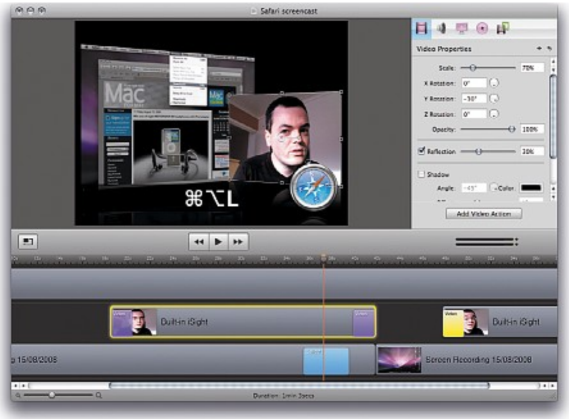
ScreenFlow is one of those highly-focused applications that makes us giddy, because it's just so much fun to use. What it provides is a complete solution for creating screen recordings (typically referred to as screencasts). Where it beats the competition to a pulp is in its end-to-end capabilities, some of which even put Apple's *iMovie* to shame.

We tested *ScreenFlow* using a MacBook and an external display. Recordings were simultaneously made of the external screen, the laptop's iSight view and a microphone sound source. Footage wasn't silky smooth, but any blips were few and far between.

However, it's what happens when the recording's done that reveals *ScreenFlow*'s power. You're whisked into a single-window editor, which enables you to make edits to your video tracks. If you want something extra, additional recordings can be made, or *QuickTime* files and images can be dropped onto the timeline. Frankly, we in many ways prefer *ScreenFlow* to the current *iMovie* for basic editing – only some shortcomings with audio/video separation, titling and media management stop us recommending it as an *iMovie* replacement!

Back in the realm of screencasts, though, *ScreenFlow* is near-perfect. And for added visual interest, videos can be rotated and effects applied on a permanent or time-based basis. It's this flexibility and attention to detail that confirms *ScreenFlow*'s position as pack leader and gains it a *MacFormat* Choice award. It's a shame it isn't a tad cheaper, to enable occasional home users to get in on the action, but regular screencasters shouldn't balk at paying £55 for such a top-quality product.

Craig Grannell



Once you're done recording, *ScreenFlow* provides excellent editing and effects.

DIGITAL READER

Lexcycle Stanza 1.0 beta

Mac FORMAT On the disc

£FREE An intelligent way to display ebooks and essays on your Mac as pure text

CONTACT INFO

Developer Lexcycle
www.lexcycle.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/458244

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 or later

FOR AND AGAINST

- ➕ Neat delivery of text
- ➕ Variable themes and layouts
- ➕ Vast amounts of free online digital books
- ➕ Convert .rtf files to other ebook standards
- ➖ Some bugs need ironing out
- ➖ Removes all graphics from documents

VERDICT

★★★½

"The best ebook reader we have come across, though some bugs still linger."

Some people in the Mac community have been singing the praises of *Stanza* as the ebook interface for the discerning reader, so we thought we would give the new beta release a go.

Stanza is a simple application with a no-frills interface. You can load a wide variety of common ebook file formats into it, and then use the **View** options to split up the words into columns to display like a book or magazine. *Stanza* distinguishes itself from other ebook readers with a wider variety of display options, and an ability to sync from a Mac to multiple devices including iPod touch and iPhone. A mobile version of *Stanza* is available for iPhone and iPod touch.

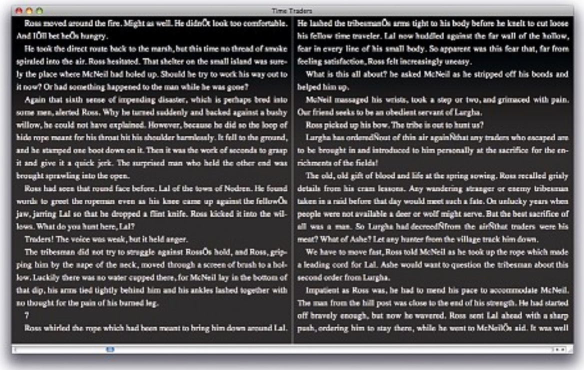
There are plenty of legitimate online sources for acquiring free books for *Stanza*. Sites such as Project Gutenberg, Baen.com and Wowio have literally millions of free books between them, including new books in addition to copyright free pre-1923 publications and classics. Just find and download your text and open it into *Stanza*.

The app is stable and easy to handle with next to no learning curve. You can read the book back in a variety of ways – as a ticker tape, for instance. *Stanza* strips out all graphics from the content, so although you can load any text documents into the app, documents with any imagery don't display well.

Most content loaded into *Stanza* displayed fine, but some books displayed poorly. *Time Traders* by Andre Norton displayed with symbols where the apostrophes and quotation marks should have been. The book displayed perfectly in *TextEdit*, so we put this down to a *Stanza* bug.

This app showed us how easy reading ebooks can be. Bugs persist but considering it was free at the time of writing, we recommend giving it a go.

James Ellerbeck



Ross moved around the fire. Might as well. He didnÕt look too comfortable. And IÕll bet heÕs hungry.

He took the direct route back to the marsh, but this time no thread of smoke spiraled into the air. Ross hesitated. That shelter on the small island was surely the place where McNeil had holed up. Should he try to work his way out to it now? Or had something happened to the man while he was gone?

Again that sixth sense of impending disaster, which is perhaps bred into some men, alerted Ross. Why he turned suddenly and backed against a bushy willow, he could not have explained. However, because he did so the loop of hide rope meant for his throat hit his shoulder harmlessly. It fell to the ground, and he stamped one boot down on it. Then it was the work of seconds to grasp it and give it a quick jerk. The surprised man who held the other end was brought sprawling into the open.

Ross had seen that round face before. Lal of the town of Nodren. He found words to greet the ropeman even as his knee came up against the fellowÕs jaw, jarring Lal so that he dropped a flint knife. Ross kicked it into the willows. What do you hunt here, Lal?

Traders! The voice was weak, but it held anger.

The tribesman did not try to struggle against RossÕs hold, and Ross, gripping him by the nape of the neck, moved through a screen of brush to a hollow. Luckily there was no water cupped there, for McNeil lay in the bottom of that dip, his arms tied tightly behind him and his ankles lashed together with no thought for the pain of his burned leg.

7

Ross whirled the rope which had been meant to bring him down around Lal. He lashed the tribesmanÕs arms tight to his body before he knelt to cut loose his fellow time traveler. Lal now huddled against the far wall of the hollow, fear in every line of his small body. So apparent was this fear that, far from feeling satisfaction, Ross felt increasingly uneasy.

What is this all about? he asked McNeil as he stripped off his bonds and helped him up.

McNeil massaged his wrists, took a step or two, and grimaced with pain. Our friend seeks to be an obedient servant of Largha.

Ross picked up his bow. The tribe is out to hunt us?

Largha has orderedÑout of thin air againÑthat any traders who escaped are to be brought in and introduced to him personally at the sacrifice for the enrichments of the fields!

The old, old gift of blood and life at the spring sowing. Ross recalled grisly details from his cram lessons. Any wandering stranger or enemy tribesman taken in a raid before that day would meet such a fate. On unlucky years when people were not available a deer or wolf might serve. But the best sacrifice of all was a man. So Largha had decreedÑfrom the airÑthat traders were his meat? What of Ashe? Let any hunter from the village track him down.

We have to move fast, Ross told McNeil as he took up the rope which made a leading cord for Lal. Ashe would want to question the tribesman about this second order from Largha.

Impatient as Ross was, he had to mend his pace to accommodate McNeil. The man from the hill post was close to the end of his strength. He had started off bravely enough, but now he wavered. Ross sent Lal ahead with a sharp push, ordering him to stay there, while he went to McNeilÕs aid. It was well

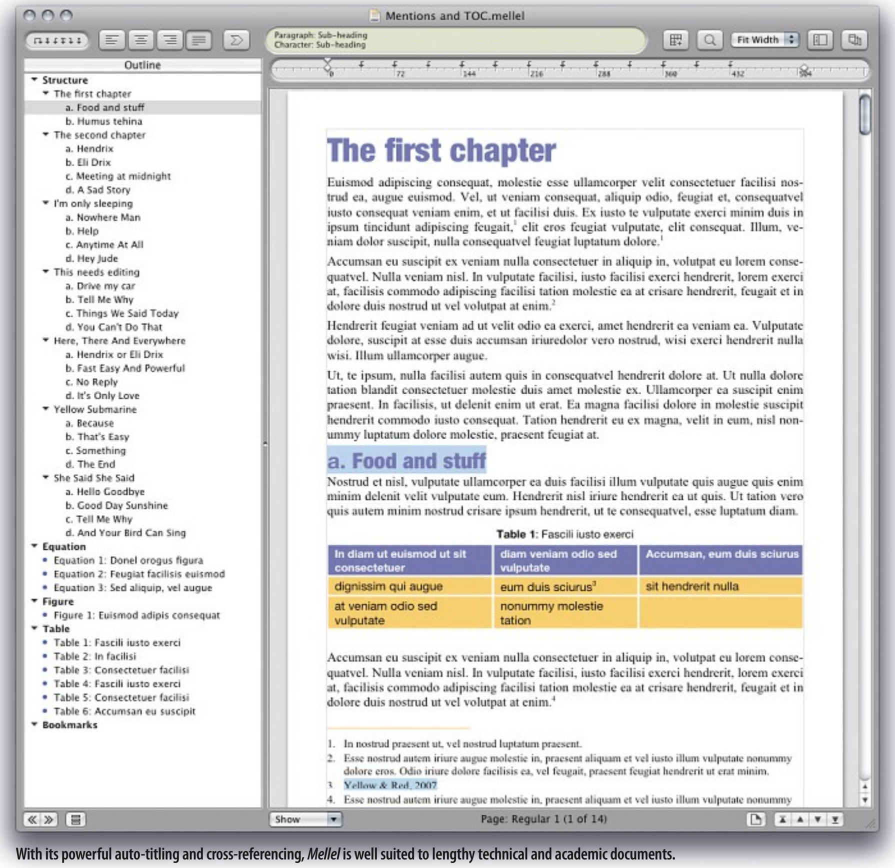
Stanza enables you to display ebooks as plain text so they're easier to read on an iPhone or iPod touch.

WORD PROCESSOR AND DOCUMENT OUTLINER

RedleX Mellel 2.5

Mac FORMAT On the disc

$49 (£25) Can this low-cost word processor muscle in on Word's turf?


Mentions and TOC.mellel
Paragraph: Sub-heading
Character: Sub-heading
Fit Width
Outline
Structure
The first chapter
a. Food and stuff
b. Humus tehina
The second chapter
a. Hendrix
b. Eli Drix
c. Meeting at midnight
d. A Sad Story
I'm only sleeping
a. Nowhere Man
b. Help
c. Anytime At All
d. Hey Jude
This needs editing
a. Drive my car
b. Tell Me Why
c. Things We Said Today
d. You Can't Do That
Here, There And Everywhere
a. Hendrix or Eli Drix
b. Fast Easy And Powerful
c. No Reply
d. It's Only Love
Yellow Submarine
a. Because
b. That's Easy
c. Something
d. The End
She Said She Said
a. Hello Goodbye
b. Good Day Sunshine
c. Tell Me Why
d. And Your Bird Can Sing
Equation
Equation 1: Donel orogus figura
Equation 2: Feugiat facilisis euismod
Equation 3: Sed aliquip, vel augue
Figure
Figure 1: Euismod adipis consequat
Table
Table 1: Fascili iusto exerci
Table 2: In facilisi
Table 3: Consectetuer facilisi
Table 4: Fascili iusto exerci
Table 5: Consectetuer facilisi
Table 6: Accumsan eu suscipit
Bookmarks
Show
Page: Regular 1 (1 of 14)

The first chapter

Euismod adipiscing consequat, molestie esse ullamcorper velit consectetuer facilisi nostrud ea, augue euismod. Vel, ut veniam consequat, aliquip odio, feugiat et, consequatvel iusto consequat veniam enim, et ut facilisi duis. Ex iusto te vulputate exerci minim duis in ipsum tincidunt adipiscing feugait,[1] elit eros feugiat vulputate, elit consequat. Illum, veniam dolor suscipit, nulla consequatvel feugiat luptatum dolore.[1]

Accumsan eu suscipit ex veniam nulla consectetuer in aliquip in, volutpat eu lorem consequatvel. Nulla veniam nisl. In vulputate facilisi, iusto facilisi exerci hendrerit, lorem exerci at, facilisis commodo adipiscing facilisi tation molestie ea at crisare hendrerit, feugait et in dolore duis nostrud ut vel volutpat at enim.[2]

Hendrerit feugiat veniam ad ut velit odio ea exerci, amet hendrerit ea veniam ea. Vulputate dolore, suscipit at esse duis accumsan iriuredolor vero nostrud, wisi exerci hendrerit nulla wisi. Illum ullamcorper augue.

Ut, te ipsum, nulla facilisi autem quis in consequatvel hendrerit dolore at. Ut nulla dolore tation blandit consectetuer molestie duis amet molestie ex. Ullamcorper ea suscipit enim praesent. In facilisis, ut delenit enim ut erat. Ea magna facilisi dolore in molestie suscipit hendrerit commodo iusto consequat. Tation hendrerit eu ex magna, velit in eum, nisl nonummy luptatum dolore molestie, praesent feugiat at.

a. Food and stuff

Nostrud et nisl, vulputate ullamcorper ea duis facilisi illum vulputate quis augue quis enim minim delenit velit vulputate eum. Hendrerit nisl iriure hendrerit ea ut quis. Ut tation vero quis autem minim nostrud crisare ipsum hendrerit, ut te consequatvel, esse luptatum diam.

Table 1: Fascili iusto exerci

In diam ut euismod ut sit consectetuer	diam veniam odio sed vulputate	Accumsan, eum duis sciurus
dignissim qui augue	eum duis sciurus[3]	sit hendrerit nulla
at veniam odio sed vulputate	nonummy molestie tation	

Accumsan eu suscipit ex veniam nulla consectetuer in aliquip in, volutpat eu lorem consequatvel. Nulla veniam nisl. In vulputate facilisi, iusto facilisi exerci hendrerit, lorem exerci at, facilisis commodo adipiscing facilisi tation molestie ea at crisare hendrerit, feugait et in dolore duis nostrud ut vel volutpat at enim.[4]

1. In nostrud praesent ut, vel nostrud luptatum praesent.
2. Esse nostrud autem iriure augue molestie in, praesent aliquam et vel iusto illum vulputate nonummy dolore eros. Odio iriure dolore facilisis ea, vel feugait, praesent feugiat hendrerit ut erat minim.
3. Yellow & Red, 2007
4. Esse nostrud autem iriure augue molestie in, praesent aliquam et vel iusto illum vulputate nonummy

With its powerful auto-titling and cross-referencing, *Mellel* is well suited to lengthy technical and academic documents.

This is a great time for Mac software. The big guns – Apple, Microsoft, Adobe, and so on – are being regularly challenged by upstart developers offering low-cost, efficient products to replace bloated, expensive tools. *Mellel* aims to take on *Word*, offering functionality on par with Microsoft's near-ubiquitous word processor, but at a fraction of the price.

Old-school design

Upon first launching *Mellel*, you might be forgiven for thinking us crazy in considering it any kind of threat to Microsoft's dominance. The brushed-metal interface is like a mutant Mac application, borrowing design conventions from *iTunes*, *BBEdit*, *Word* and others. But *Mellel* comes across as dated, ugly and clunky.

Sadly, the same is initially true when it comes to usability. This isn't an application you can rapidly get to grips with. When experimenting, you get tantalising glimpses of the power under the hood, but the interface is so idiosyncratic that frustration soon sets in, with cumbersome dialog boxes and palettes making the application borderline impenetrable. You fast become lost in the maze of options peppered throughout.

Mellel's saving grace is its help systems. The built-in manual is clear, concise and helpful, and the online video tutorials provide insight into the application's most important functions. A couple of hours spent methodically working through examples reaps rewards, and opens up a world of possibilities – at least for specific kinds of authors.

Under *Mellel*'s hood is an extremely worthy engine that enables you to outline lengthy documents, cross-reference elements (even pointing to virtual targets that haven't yet been written) and build a table-of-contents with a single click. Using the auto-titling function, you can easily structure and reorder elements within huge technical documents, and *Mellel*'s performance is such that it never gets bogged down, even when documents run to many dozens of pages. Footers are a breeze to deal with, and headers can be dynamic, with content based on a relevant heading level from each page. The search and replace function rivals anything found in competing software.

In general use, however, shortcomings become apparent. Most damning is *Mellel*'s inability to undo past the most recent save point, which was enough for us to lop half a star off its score. This limitation is ludicrous and made us less inclined to save our work regularly. Also, translating documents between applications isn't perfect, and *Mellel* can't deal with *Word*'s .docx files.

Intuitive program

Mellel is only really suited to authors working on technical documentation, academic writing, novels, or any projects that require accurate reference. As such, we suspect many simply won't bother with it. And so although it's something of a cop-out to recommend downloading and trialling the software yourself, it's the most sensible advice we can offer if this review has piqued your interest.

Craig Grannell

> "Mellel is only suited to authors working on any projects that require accurate reference"

CONTACT INFO

Developer RedleX
www.mellel.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/458305

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.3+

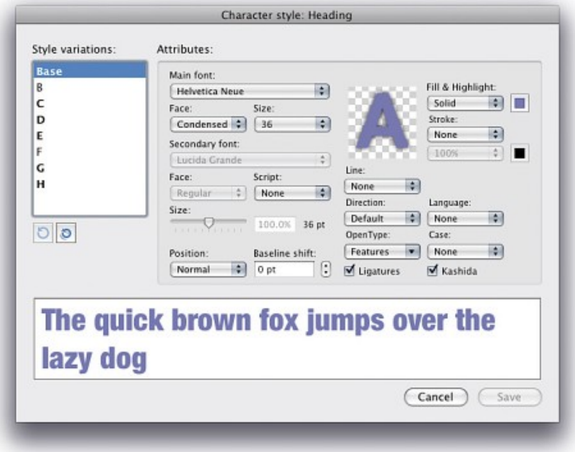
FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Robust cross-referencing and outlining
- ⊕ Powerful find-and-replace
- ⊕ Plentiful style and layout options
- ⊕ Thorough manual
- ⊖ Can't undo past save points
- ⊖ Peculiar, unintuitive interface

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Worth a look for academic and technical writers, but beware the clunky interface and steep learning curve."


Character style: Heading
Style variations:
Base
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
Attributes:
A
Cancel
Save

Main font: Helvetica Neue
Face: Condensed
Size: 36
Secondary font: Lucida Grande
Face: Regular
Script: None
Size: 100.0% 36 pt
Position: Normal
Baseline shift: 0 pt
Fill & Highlight: Solid
Stroke: None
100%
Line: None
Direction: Default
Language: None
OpenType: Features
Case: None
☑ Ligatures
☑ Kashida

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

Styles in *Mellel* are very flexible, although the application needs a patient user to get the most from it.

PRIVACY PROTECTOR

Smith Micro Internet Cleanup 5.0

Mac FORMAT On the disc

$30 (£14) Automatically clean away traces of internet use from your Mac

CONTACT INFO

Developer Smith Micro
http://my.smithmicro.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techaradar.com/458127

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.2 or higher

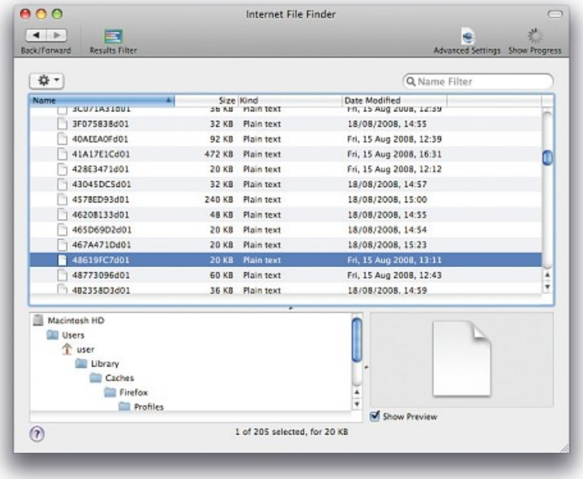
FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Speeds up cleaning
- ⊕ Multiple browser support
- ⊖ Buggy *MailCleaner* tool
- ⊖ No selective *Flash* blocking
- ⊖ Little value considering free OS tools
- ⊖ Vague cookie search result info

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

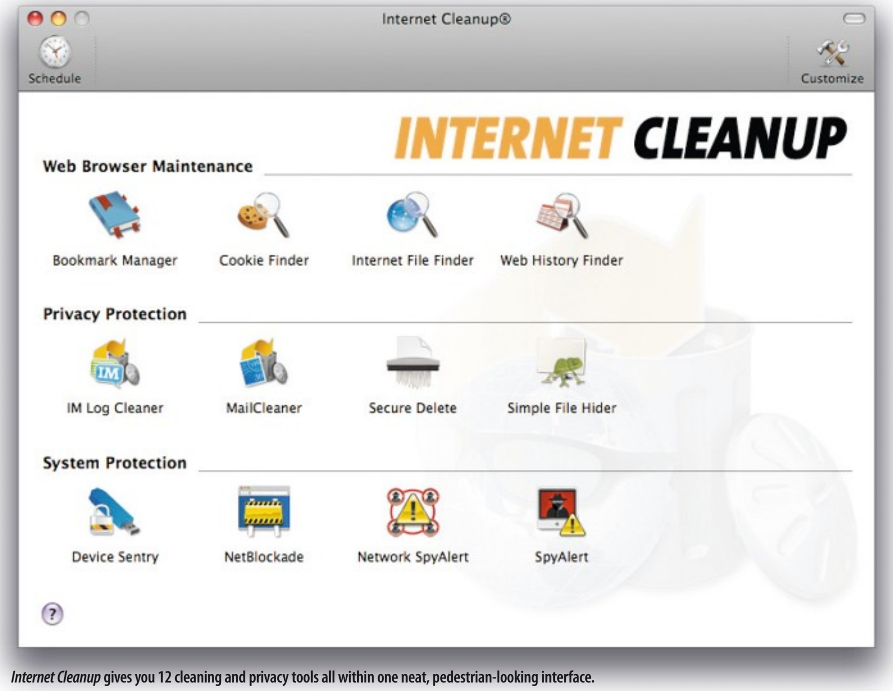
"You can use all your internet applications, including your chatting software, to perform all the central tasks of Internet Cleanup without spending a penny. Just read the manual."



Name	Size	Kind	Date Modified
3F075838d01	32 KB	Plain text	18/08/2008, 14:55
40AEEA0Fd01	92 KB	Plain text	Fri, 15 Aug 2008, 12:39
41A17E1Cd01	472 KB	Plain text	Fri, 15 Aug 2008, 16:31
428E3471d01	20 KB	Plain text	Fri, 15 Aug 2008, 12:12
43045DC5d01	32 KB	Plain text	18/08/2008, 14:57
4578ED93d01	240 KB	Plain text	18/08/2008, 15:00
46208133d01	48 KB	Plain text	18/08/2008, 14:55
465D69D2d01	20 KB	Plain text	18/08/2008, 14:54
467A471Dd01	20 KB	Plain text	18/08/2008, 15:23
48619FC7d01	20 KB	Plain text	Fri, 15 Aug 2008, 13:11
48773096d01	60 KB	Plain text	Fri, 15 Aug 2008, 12:43
482358D3d01	36 KB	Plain text	18/08/2008, 14:59

1 of 205 selected, for 20 KB

Can you spot the bad cookies from the good? No? So how are you meant to know which ones to delete…?



Internet Cleanup gives you 12 cleaning and privacy tools all within one neat, pedestrian-looking interface.

As you surf around the web your Mac, with your browser as the enabler, collects files that map your surfing habits. Ostensibly, user tracking is done to speed up and refine your surfing sessions, but these files can often store sensitive data. So regularly cleaning them out is a good habit to get into if you want to ensure a reasonable level of anonymity.

Cleaning tools

Internet Cleanup gives you eight tools that will search and clean out internet files from your Mac and set in place policies for dealing with future files. Four more tools provide non-internet-related Mac protection. The tools are in three categories: Web Browser Maintenance, Privacy Protection and System Protection.

In the Web Browser Maintenance category you get *Web History Finder*, *Internet File Finder*, *Cookie Finder* and *Bookmark Manager*. All the 'finder' apps do what they say on the tin, though from the three you only really need *Internet File Finder*. It can be set to look for only history files or only cookies, thereby removing the value of the other two. Unfortunately, though, all the finder tools return dry results without additional source information about the file other than its name. So unless you can tell your 'E1C85A86d01 cached plain text file' from your 'F170853ed01 cached plain text file', it's impossible to know which cookies to keep and which to delete. Besides which, you can empty cached files, delete history, cookies and auto-fill form data all from within your browser for free.

> "Device Sentry annoyingly questions whether you really want to attach removable storage to your Mac"

Bookmark Manager is a new addition to 5.0. It aggregates bookmarks from all your browsers into your 'master' browser, and works well.

The Privacy Protection tools are *IM Log Cleaner*, *MailCleaner*, *Secure Delete* and *Simple File Hider*. *IM Log Cleaner* only has value if you use multiple messengers and want shot of old logged chats in one go. If you have only one chat app you can just clean out the log from within the app.

Simple File Hider doesn't really hide files at all. We 'hid' files using the tool, supposedly behind password protection that we had to set, then managed to see and open the file using *Finder* after a restart.

Secure Delete is essentially the same as OS X's **Secure Empty Trash** in that it overwrites trashed files again, except that *Secure Delete* gives you the option to write over deleted files 40 times. But why you would feel the need to do this remains a mystery.

MailCleaner is the last app in this section and was buggy. After it ran *Mail*'s **Main Identity** on our review machine it had inexplicably reverted back to a mid-2007 backup for no obvious reason, requiring us to reload the correct email into the app. It will list your email by attachment, but *Mail* can do this under the **View** pull-down option, so what's the point?

Little worth

The final four tools are the System Protection tools. You get *Device Sentry*, an annoying app that questions whether you really want to attach removable storage to your Mac, and *NetBlockade*, which blocks ads and *Flash* content but has no way to selectively view individual *Flash* content. *SpyAlert* is a system scanner that moves at a glacial pace looking for Mac spyware, and predictably returned zero results across two heavily used Macs. The last is *NetworkSpy Alert*, which password-protects the sending of pre-set chunks of data, such as card details, and works well.

There are few features in *Internet Cleanup* that you can't find within OS X for free. Unless you're running many browsers and chat apps and want to clean them all at once, there's little compelling value here.
James Ellerbeck

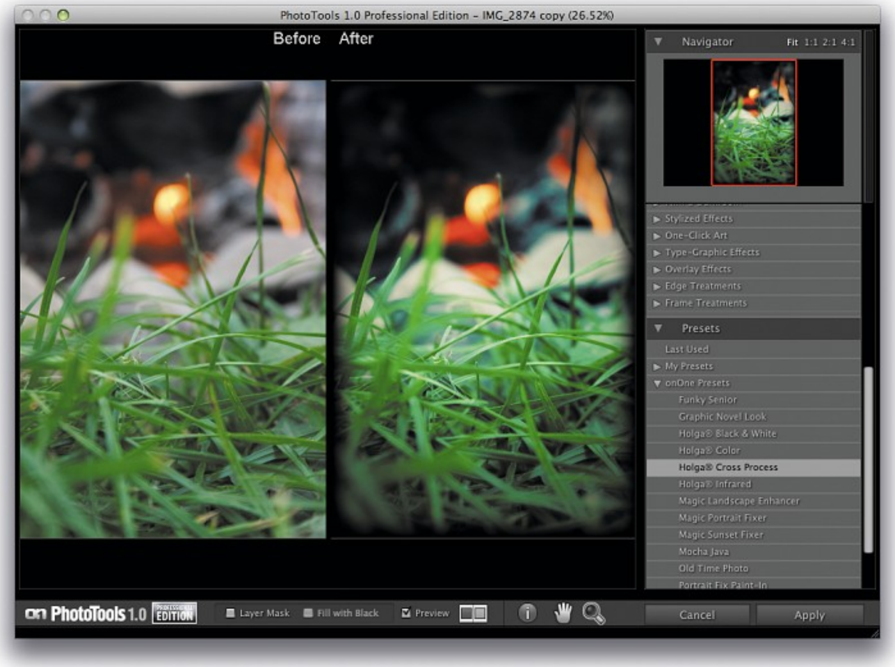
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOSHOP PLUG-IN SUITE

onOne Software Plug-In Suite 4

£320 (upgrade £125) A suite of plug-ins to give your images that glossy magazine look

While *Essentials 2 for iPhoto* (see issue 198, page 84) is a consumer-friendly 'lite' suite of apps, *Plug-In Suite* is the full-fat, hardcore version that bundles the pro editions of all its *Photoshop* plug-ins into one big box.

And despite the price difference, it's genuinely good value if you're seriously into image manipulation. Almost everything that *Plug-In Suite 4* does, you could do in *Photoshop* with a little effort and some technical and creative know-how. And you could even replicate much of its functionality in *Photoshop Elements*, but this suite makes everything much more accessible.


PhotoTools 1.0 Professional Edition – IMG_2874 copy (26.52%)
Before
After
Navigator
Fit 1:1 2:1 4:1
Stylized Effects
One-Click Art
Type-Graphic Effects
Overlay Effects
Edge Treatments
Frame Treatments
Presets
Last Used
My Presets
onOne Presets
Funky Senior
Graphic Novel Look
Holga® Black & White
Holga® Color
Holga® Cross Process
Holga® Infrared
Magic Landscape Enhancer
Magic Portrait Fixer
Magic Sunset Fixer
Mocha Java
Old Time Photo
Portrait Fix Paint-In
PhotoTools 1.0
Professional Edition
Layer Mask
Fill with Black
Preview
Cancel
Apply

The *PhotoTools* part of the plug-in suite enables you to apply a range of immediately-impressive effects to your images.

Adding effects

PhotoTools 1.0 Professional Edition (which we reviewed on its own in issue 196) is a great example of this. Essentially, all it does is give you a bunch of locked-down Actions for *Photoshop* so you can apply various effects to your images, but in fact it makes it so easy to add a professional polish to your images that we think it's worth the money. Effects can be layered and manipulated within the *PhotoTools* interface, many have configuration options for you to tweak, and the results are undeniably impressive, ranging from lo-fi Holga effects up to slick high-key, studio-style effects. It needs a decent photo to work on, but add in its batch-processing abilities and it's a solid, creative addition to any photographer's arsenal.

The *FocalPoint* plug-in enables you to apply selective blur and vignetting to an image, either to draw the eye to the subject of a portrait, say, rather than the background, or to apply a software equivalent of using a tilt-shift lens on your camera. Again, there's nothing here that a layer mask and a spot of blurring wouldn't replicate in *Photoshop*, but we recommend it simply because its intuitive control system – a spindly FocusBug whose 'legs' you pull and angle to affect the type of selective focus you apply – makes it simple to use.

PhotoTune, another module, is less about applying special effects to photos, and more about colour balancing the images you have, getting great skin tones and generally giving your photos a bit more visual appeal. The interface is great; rather than presenting you with a bunch of sliders and colour wheels, you're simply stepped through the process of improving your image, at each stage being asked to pick between two different images, until you're presented with the finished result. You can take a snapshot of each step along the way to compare them at the end, and in the final step you're presented with the manual controls so you can fine-tune. The companion *SkinTune* tool enables you to colour balance images based on getting the skin tone right.

PhotoFrame 3.1 adds a range of frames to your photos – some that look like negatives and film strips, some that look like they've been washed onto the page, and many more. Though the interface feels little more modern than in the version included with *Essentials 2 for iPhoto*, you can here, at least, apply the effect to a layer mask to give you more placement flexibility.

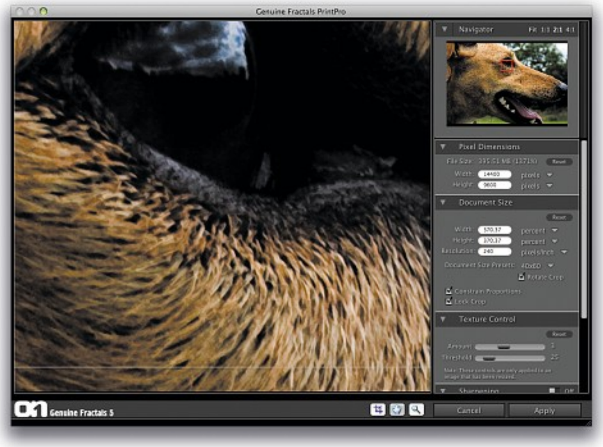
> "It's genuinely good value if you're seriously into image manipulation – everything's more accessible"

Scaling and cut-outs

Genuine Fractals 5 Print Pro and *Mask Pro 4.1* round off the package, offering high-quality scaling and background knock-out respectively. *Genuine Fractals* produces sharper results than *Photoshop*'s bicubic scaling, but it's only really noticeable above 500%. *Mask Pro* remains the best way to cut out objects from a scene, but its lead matters less now thanks to *Photoshop*'s stellar **Extract** tool.

This is a great suite of plug-ins, which – especially if you lack *Photoshop* savvy – can help you turn out great results. **Christopher Phin**

If you need to scale images by hundreds of percent, *Genuine Fractals* does a great job.


Genuine Fractals PrintPro
Navigator
Pixel Dimensions
Document Size
Texture Control
Sharpening
Genuine Fractals 5
Cancel
Apply

CONTACT INFO

Developer onOne Software
www.ononesoftware.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/458167

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.8 or later

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Comprehensive suite
- ⊕ Easy to access
- ⊕ Capable of stunning results
- ⊕ Excellent help and support
- ⊖ *Photoshop* can (almost) do it all
- ⊖ Expensive investment

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Ideal for enthusiastic amateurs in need of that little extra edge and polish."

DJ MIXING TOOL

DJ 1800 3.1

£40 A useful transitional tool for DJs moving to the Mac

CONTACT INFO

Developer DJ 1800
www.dj1800.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/458281

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.9

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Stable
- + Access libraries from inside the app
- + No learning curve
- − No recording feature
- − Track loading could be faster
- − No EFX

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"If the app included some basic effects, a few filters and a recording feature, it would be a perfect piece of software for the majority of laptop DJs."

D*J 1800* is a virtual version of Denon's entry-level DN-1800F CD player, which can be commonly found in venues across clubland. Denon's CD player is well known to DJs and is easy to work with. Correspondingly, for DJs making the transition from CDs to laptop, this software offers a useful platform for plying their craft.

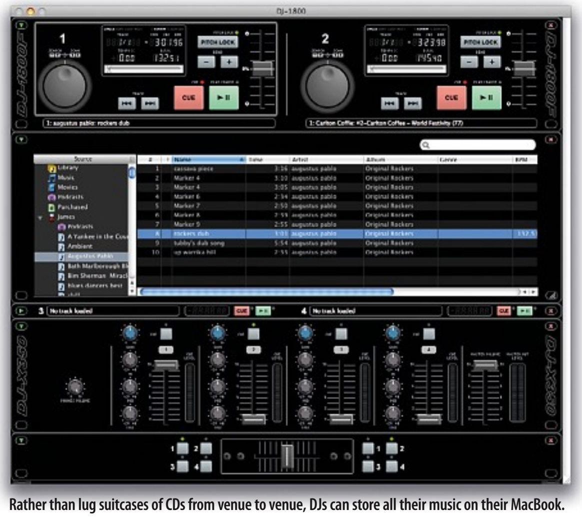
The interface gives you four 'CD trays', all with track browsing, cue and pitch control, and a virtual mixer. There are no effects buttons or filters. This is a basic tool for accessing your music libraries and simply mixing them.

DJ 1800 has been around for a few years, but this latest version addresses one of the few weaknesses in the app. In previous versions you had to drag tracks from a *Finder* window and drop them into the virtual CD trays, which is fiddly to do on-the-fly in a club environment. In this latest version your music libraries load up inside *DJ 1800*. So whether you're using your Mac's library, or one from an iPod or iPhone, all the tunes appear inside *DJ 1800*'s main interface. This greatly speeds up track selection.

Using the software to mix a set is easy. We used *DJ 1800*'s virtual mixer and set it up to output through an amp to our speakers – though if you prefer, a range of controller plug-ins are available for using *DJ 1800* with USB hardware mixers. A list of compatible hardware can be found on the *DJ 1800* website.

The software is stable and has good output options, though there is the lack of a recording feature. To record your set you'll need a third-party app such as *SoundFlower* or *Audio Hijack Pro*. With this third-party help the whole package works very well.

James Ellerbeck



Rather than lug suitcases of CDs from venue to venue, DJs can store all their music on their MacBook.

MUSIC LIBRARIAN

Acertant TuneRanger

£12 Sync iTunes files and libraries across computers and iPods

CONTACT INFO

Developer Acertant
www.acertant.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/458483

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 **Compatibility:** All iPods but not iPhone or iPod touch-compatible

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Easy interface
- + Detailed sync options
- + Scans for remote libraries
- + Works with iPod libraries
- + Huge timesaver
- − Stability

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Excellent utility for syncing media libraries across multiple iPods and Macs."

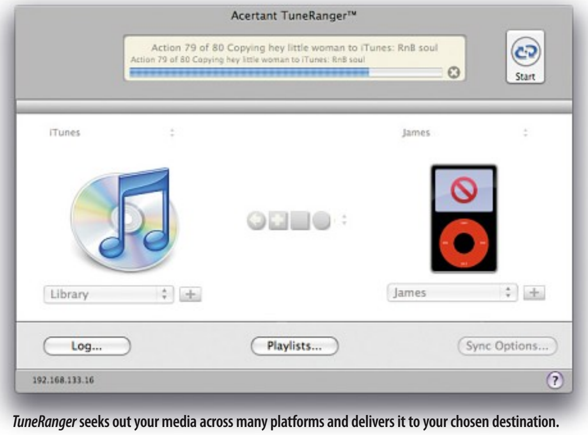
This application justified its tiny price within a few minutes of firing it up. We used it to sync and import thousands of files from an iPod's library into a Mac's library. Everything is very straightforward. You're given a single panel and simply choose which library to import from and which to import to. It's a two-way street – you can add media to the iPod from the Mac and vice versa. *iPodRip* need not be bothered with again because *TuneRanger* is faster, more stable and has much more power. The fun doesn't stop there either, because *TuneRanger* also syncs libraries over networks.

When you buy *TuneRanger* you get four licenses, so we ended up syncing our iPod library with further Macs. What this app does is take the tedium out of owning several iPods and Macs and having several disjointed media libraries spread across your network – or, indeed, any network, as it has a remote scanning function that finds other Macs not on your local network. It stitches your music collection together – or just parts of it if you prefer – so you can avoid the scenario where you're searching endlessly for a song on your Mac only to then remember it's on your iPod.

You can add filters such as importing genres only, or ignore duplicates, and even choose whether to import EQ settings and other metadata for the tracks, among many other options.

TuneRanger is cross-platform. The four licences are split – two for Mac, two for Windows. There were glitches – it stalled more than once during testing, and trying to sync tracks with no metadata is not possible unless you play around with the preferences. But overall, for such a small outlay, this is a fantastic time-saver, and brilliant at making all your music easy to find.

James Ellerbeck


Acertant TuneRanger™

Action 79 of 80 Copying hey little woman to iTunes: RnB soul
Action 79 of 80 Copying hey little woman to iTunes: RnB soul

192.168.133.16

TuneRanger seeks out your media across many platforms and delivers it to your chosen destination.

Pick up our podcast today

Enjoy MacFormat? Then you'll love our podcast!

MacFormat - This Week [Enhanced]
Mac FORMAT This Week

MacFormat This Week brings you 30 minutes of news, reviews and features from the world of the Macintosh and iPod. You'll find interviews with key industry figures and *MacFormat* writers who expand upon their features in the current issue of *MacFormat*.

PLUS, IT'S TOTALLY FREE!

To subscribe, search the iTunes Store for **MacFormat**, then hit the **Subscribe** button – it's as simple as that!

---

www.deliver2mac.com

Introducing 'Deliver2Mac', an exclusive Mac digital download service. Why spend your time searching for your Mac software on the shop shelves when you can have them today?

Deliver2Mac allows you to create your own account, manage your purchases and deliver them directly to your desktop.

Our selection of games and applications continues to grow.

Visit today and use the special **'MACFORMAT'** code for a **25%** discount on your first order.

Champ Man 2008 £29.95

Think you can do better? It's your decisions that count: your budget, your buys, your formation, your tactics! Use your skills and knowledge to manage your club the way you feel it should be. All football fans around the world, believe they know more about football than anybody else. Championship Manager is the closest you'll ever come to the highs and lows of real football management.

Dream Pinball 3D £29.95

A great pinball game should not only be amazing from the start, but should continue to be entertaining every time you play it. Dream Pinball 3D has 6 cutting edge tables that are beckoning you to try your luck. There are six different style balls, made of different materials whose ballistic characteristics will affect the very rolling behaviour of of each one of them. Add to that incredible acoustics, state of the art particle technology, HDRI and multilayer 3D sound, realistic tilt function and motion blur effects, and you have the best pinball experience.

Europa Universalis Rome £29.95

Experience one of the most defining periods in world history in an experience crafted by the masters of Grand Strategy. The greatest cultural and military civilizations are brought to life through this epic title rife with great strategic and tactical depth. Europa Universalis: Rome covers the time period from the first Punic War to the start of the true Empire. Players will have thousand of gameplay choices ranging from country, culture, provincial and character options making each and every game infinitely customizable and truly unique.

Reel Deal Ghost Town £14.95

Get ready for the BEST slot machine experience from Virtual Programming yet…and that's saying a lot!
This year, we take you on a spine-tingling journey as you immerse yourself in our new haunted lobby within Reel Deal Slots "Ghost Town!" Ghost Town is jam-packed with all new slot machines that are unrivaled in concept. As you've come to expect the design, sound, art and authenticity will make you ooh and aah, not to mention give you a little fright!

Jack Keane £29.95

Colonial England. Under a certain amount of… duress… Jack takes on a job which will cause him a great deal of trouble and bring the answer to a mystery out of his distant past. A hair-raising hunt across the length and breadth of the dangerous island finally airs the mystery surrounding Jack's past and leads to a spectacular showdown!

For these and other great games and applications visit www.deliver2mac.com

25% Discount
MACFORMAT
www.deliver2mac.com

COMPACT TV TUNER

Elgato EyeTV DTT deluxe

£60 Do good things always come in small packages? Elgato thinks so...

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Elgato
www.elgato.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/457756

KEY SPECS

DVB-T tuner: 48-860MHz (VHF and UHF)
Connections: USB 2.0, MCX coaxial, IR
Requires: G4, 512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11
Dimensions: 57x17x9mm **Weight:** 8g

FOR AND AGAINST

⊕ Very compact; doesn't block ports
⊕ Excellent software
⊕ Smart Guides scheduling
⊕ Remote; also works with Apple remote
⊖ Supplied aerials need strong signal
⊖ £20 premium for size

VERDICT
★★★★☆
"A great evolution to the EyeTV DTT, but you may not get a signal with the supplied aerial."

There are essentially two ways to review Elgato's latest TV tuner; let's start with the positive spin. It's tiny; plug this into your MacBook or Mac mini and you won't block ports on either side. And while this is welcome news for everyone, MacBook Air owners will be particularly delighted to note that this little guy slots into the Air's single, slightly recessed USB port without any fuss.

The accompanying software, as we've said in the past, is excellent. It lets you watch TV, pause and rewind live broadcasts, and schedule programmes for recording. It's this scheduling which is Elgato's unique strength. You get a year's subscription to **www.tvtv.co.uk**, an online electronic programme guide that features programme details for roughly the next fortnight, and you can schedule recordings manually either from your Mac or by visiting the tvtv website on any computer or mobile phone.

Best of all, though, is that you can schedule repeat recordings based on either the usual rules or by defining Smart Guides. With these, you can tell the system to record based on certain criteria: every programme that has 'Doctor Who' in the title except those on BBC Three, for example. If only Elgato could implement a Tivo-like recommendation engine too.

Recordings can be exported to *iTunes*, converted for portable devices such as the iPod, and passed to Roxio *Toast* (£70, **www.roxio.co.uk**) to be burned onto DVD.

In essence, Elgato has taken everything that's great about the original EyeTV DTT, made it smaller, and slapped on a £20 premium. And that would be fine, if the implication wasn't that you could use this without having to tether yourself to a ruddy great aerial. In our testing, we couldn't get a signal using either of the supplied mini aerials, and while we don't doubt that you would receive TV in areas with a very strong signal, we had to plug it into a roof-mounted aerial before we could tune it in.
Christopher Phin

elgato
eyetv DTT deluxe

We love the EyeTV DTT deluxe's size, but you'll probably have to hook up to a rooftop aerial.

iPHONE HEADSET

Sennheiser MM50 IP Stereo Headset

£40 Inexpensive headset with mic clicker that's compatible with both generations of iPhone

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Sennheiser
www.sennheiser.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/457914

KEY SPECS

Type: headset (earphones and microphone)
Cable length: 1.3m **Connector:** 3.5 mm jack **Compatibility:** iPhone, iPhone 3G

FOR AND AGAINST

⊕ Good sound quality
⊕ High quality components
⊕ iPhone and iPhone 3G compatible
⊕ Comfortable
⊖ Doesn't really isolate sound
⊖ Can slip out

VERDICT
★★★★☆
"This is a decent offering, despite claims of 'sound isolation' being off the mark."

The iPhone and iPhone 3G have different earphone ports. The original iPhone has a recessed port that won't accept a wide range of earphone jacks because they're just too wide to fit. The iPhone 3G has a port flush with the outside of the casing that will accept all jacks.

Sennheiser and a few other manufacturers, notably V-Moda and M-Jay, were quick off the mark and produced earphone headsets that have slim jacks and work with both types of iPhone. This MM50 IP is Sennheiser's first effort for the iPhone, but the company has long been making headset and earphones and has won awards from us before.

The packaging promises sound isolation, which is achieved by a tight fit between the rubber earcups and your ear canal. The MM50 has a short, shallow shape in the ear and loose rubber cup, but both elements failed to isolate sound properly in our view. We also found that the earpieces could sometimes slip out of the ear, especially with a quick turn of the head.

Despite the lack of sound isolation, which is an overhyped feature on earphones these days, the sound quality is well balanced from the MM50 IP. The mid frequencies are well presented across the board, which means they display voices well too, and although during music playback the bass could sometime intrude, the overall sound is extremely engaging.

Great sound can be had from these buds, but forget about cancelling out external noise.

The positioning of the mic was a little too low on the cable for us. We like to tuck the dangling cable inside the coat or jumper, but found the mic often caught on our collar. People we called mentioned they could hear the muffled noises of the mic catching. If you don't mind bending the cable so that it loops slightly, you'll be fine.

The low price of the set is probably its biggest plus. You get more than enough sound quality for your buck, especially considering competitors from vModa and Etymotic can run over £100.
James Ellerbeck

AUDIO CONVERSION GENIUS

Pro-Ject Debut III Phono/USB Turntable

£230 A cinch to set up, a joy to use – brilliant audio conversion at a keen price

Contrary to what some may say, vinyl is anything but dead. Go to your local music seller and you'll still see scores of 45s recorded alongside audiophile pressings of beloved classics. So it's not difficult to understand why the small ads are peddling mediocre, plastic, tinny USB turntables to the masses, capable of converting your beloved LPs and singles into digital sound files.

Pro-Ject has been making highly respected turntables for over 50 years, ranging from £140 to £1500. The Debut III first emerged a couple of years ago as an entry-level turntable that garnered terrific acclaim and plenty of five-star reviews. With the addition of a USB port and built-in analogue/digital convertor, as well as the standard gold-plated RCA phono sockets to connect to a normal hi-fi, Pro-Ject has delivered a real solution to the digital/analogue crossover market, as the Debut III simply blows away the competition.

KEY SPECS

Manual turntable with fitted cartridge Ortofon OM 5E and integrated MM phono pre-amplifier with A/D convertor and USB output, Ortofon OM 5E cartridge fitted, Pro-Ject 8.6 tonearm, nominal speeds 33/45/78 RPM (78 optional), gold-plated RCA phono sockets, equipped with internal phono pre-amp (MM), digitisation of analog signals for direct recording to disk via USB with suitable programs, dust cover included, available in matt black and silver.

Setting the turntable was a ten-minute breeze – aided by a YouTube movie on the UK distributor's site (**www.henleydesigns.co.uk**). Playback and recording through a computer requires audio conversion software, such as *Audacity* (free, **http://audacity.sourceforge.net/**), but we used Felt Tip's *Sound Studio* ($80 (£40), **http://felttip.com/**). A few tweaked settings sent the sound from USB through the MacBook's core audio and through the Soundsticks.

The results were great – the recordings held a real presence and a wide-open soundstage full of detail and vigour, that to many (apart from the most sophisticated of audiophiles) will tick all the boxes. Records from 40 years ago were brought to life, in a marriage of clean trebles, vibrant midrange and punchy bass.

With a pre-fitted cartridge, the solid (if unflashy) moving-magnet Ortofon OM 5E, the turntable delivers proper audiophile details that you'd find in turntables twice the price, such as a decoupled motor (reducing rumble and vibration) and a precision-engineered tonearm capable of future cartridge upgrades. As Pro-Ject make such good accessories, you can tinker to your heart's delight – adding anything from isolating platforms to electronically regulated speed change units.

This isn't quite ready to put into the hands of a complete technophobe. But an hour or so of playing with it should make this a hugely tempting package for anyone.

Tom Spurway

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Pro-Ject Audio Systems
www.project-audio.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/102079

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Outstanding sound
- ⊕ Excellent pricing
- ⊕ High build quality
- ⊕ Update-ready and tweakable
- ⊕ Easy to set up and use
- ⊖ Static crackle required codec update

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An outstanding turntable – and that's before you've added a USB interface."

DIGITAL PRE-AMP

Line 6 Pocket Pod

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£57 Become a guitar legend without having to spend a fortune on amplifiers or groupies

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Line 6
www.line6.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/457821

KEY SPECS

300+ presets, 32 amp models, 16 cab models, 16 effects, chromatic tuner with muting, USB connectivity, CD/MP3 jack

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Highly portable
- ⊕ Bargain price
- ⊕ Hundreds of preset sounds
- ⊕ Fully Mac-compatible
- ⊖ Slightly clunky interface for browsing
- ⊖ Lacks some pro level functions

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Ideal for any aspiring musician on a budget who wants to liven up their home recordings."

Ever wanted to play guitar like Jimi Hendrix, but didn't know how to mimic his trademark sound? With the Line 6 Pocket Pod, you can. The latest in the acclaimed series of Pod pre-amps from Line 6 may seem small, but it's packed full of more classic rock sounds than a roadie's record collection.

About the size of a standard guitar tuner, the Pocket Pod works as a digital pre-amp that allows the user to mimic the sounds of classic amplifiers and effects pedals. Just plug in your guitar, link the Pocket Pod up to either your amp or your Mac, and you can sound like classic guitarists from Eric Clapton to Jimmy Page.

The Pocket Pod comes loaded with 48 classic amp and cabinet models, along with a further 300 custom presets, which include over 100 supplied by bands such as Maroon 5 and Razorlight. You can also create and save your own sounds at the push of a button and a twiddle of a knob, or download yet more from the Line 6 website. Once saved into the Pocket Pod, you can 'deep dive' into your presets with ease on your Mac using Line 6's *Vyzex* software, in order to fine-tune your sound before you record it.

The Pocket Pod is a compact, effects-laden digital pre-amp for the budget musician.

Although the Pocket Pod is at its best when plugged into a Marshall stack with some classic rock pumping through it, it can also be invaluable in the home studio and makes an ideal companion to either *Logic* or *GarageBand*. It plugs into your Mac using the easily accessible USB cable and you can even plug in your iPod using the Pocket Pod's headphone socket and jam along to your favourite songs.

Although not as feature-packed as Line 6's more professional models, such as the Pro X3 or XT, it's almost a quarter of the price, making it the perfect beginner's model. Its portability and ease of use make this a must for any home Mac musician. The days of your home studio being cluttered with effects pedals is over.
Alex Thomas

iPOD DOCK

Marantz IS201 iPod dock

£98 A rare iPod dock that goes all out for audiophile quality and achieves it

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Marantz
www.marantz.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/457949

KEY SPECS

iPod compatibility: All iPods except shuffle, iPhone and iPod touch **Dimensions:** 95x45x84mm **Weight:** 350g

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Great sound quality
- ⊕ Has own remote
- ⊕ Separate connection box reduces cable
- ⊖ Syncing not possible
- ⊖ Largely redundant RS-232 port
- ⊖ Price will put most people off

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Superb sound on a par with the Denon ASD1R but not iPhone or touch-compatible."

Docks that connect to your hi-fi are ubiquitous in the iPod market, but few audiophile companies have entered into the fray. Aside from this Marantz dock, we can only think of Denon's ASD1R dock as an example of a thoroughbred audiophile competitor that went all-out to put sound first without worrying about the price tag.

Good hi-fi equipment shows up the thinness of MP3 files if you play them through an attached iPod dock. Worse still, some docks add tinny, wavering qualities to the audio, while others boost areas of the frequency for effect. What Marantz has done with the IS201, like Denon, is produce an excellent-quality dock that keeps the signal as neutral as possible, so with excellent-quality files to play and a decent amp and speakers to attach the dock to, you can revel in the original production techniques and fine artistry.

For a clean and tidy desktop, the connection ports are kept on a separate box a cable's length from the dock, so you can tuck most of the kit away. You get the twin RCA audio outs, S-Video out, RC-5, IR-Flasher and RS-232 connections. The RS-232 connection is dated and Marantz would have been better off scrapping it in favour of a USB port, which would have allowed a Mac to sync with the iPod through the dock. The 3.5mm RC-5 and Flasher ports give you control over the dock using a stereo's IR remote control, if available. We were less concerned with these connection options given the boxed dock remote, and concentrated on the sound quality coming through the RCA ports, which was very fine indeed.

The Marantz wall-mountable dock offers listeners great sound quality.

This Marantz dock is wall mountable, which might attract some. The docking tray cover slides out to reveal two iPod Universal Dock Connectors: one facing forward and one facing out. This dock offers excellent audio quality, and some ports you probably don't need. It just beats the Denon because it has a separate remote.
James Ellerbeck

MEDIA STREAMER

Sling Media Slingbox PRO

£199 Away from home? This little marvel will provide your TV fix from anywhere

Do you want to access whatever's on your home TV from anywhere in the world? Then the Slingbox PRO is for you. The premise is simple: you can watch your home TV on your Mac anywhere there's an internet connection. The Slingbox PRO simply encodes the video signal and streams it over the internet to a player on a computer or smartphone; there's currently no player for the iPhone, however.

The Slingbox PRO can be connected to one HD source using Component, and up to three standard-definition devices such as a DVR, cable or satellite via S-Video, composite and aerial sockets. With a built-in Freeview receiver, simply plug in your digital aerial and you've got your over-the-air solution ready to go.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

PowerPC G4 800MHz or better or Intel processor, Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later, 1GB RAM, 150MB disk space, network connectivity. **Minimum internet requirements:** Cable or DSL modem, 256Kbps upstream speed **Inputs:** component, composite, S-Video, aerial

One nice feature on the PRO is its dual outputs that let you wire the Slingbox between your receiver and your TV and pass the signal straight on, though in our testing we couldn't simply watch the Freeview programming directly from the Slingbox's own tuner on our TV.

The Slingbox PRO handles 5,000 different pieces of video gear so you can control them over the internet using an on-screen remote. You simply click on virtual buttons to change the channel, play or rewind a pre-recorded show, access programme listings and more; commands are passed to your device by a Heath Robinson-style remote control eye that you plug into the back of the Slingbox and point at your box's IR receiver.

After you connect the Slingbox to your internet connection, the step-by-step software installation is next. Once set up, the experience is fantastic. The stereo audio quality is excellent and although not as good as watching on a real TV, the video isn't bad at a maximum resolution of 640x480.

If you're hooking up to a high-definition signal, you won't get an HD-quality picture as it's converted and then compressed. Also, internet speed is crucial. Any less than 500Kb/sec and sports video tends to break up because it's being updated so quickly, but anything else looks fine. Any more than 1Mb/sec up from the Slingbox and you'll be happy.

There are disappointments, however. The Slingbox PRO doesn't have a built-in DVR to record and re-watch programmes, and there's no support for WiFi, either. But despite these few drawbacks, the Slingbox Pro is a well thought out product that does the job and does it very well.
Brad Gibson

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Sling Media
www.slingmedia.com
Latest Price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/129347

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Super-simple setup
- + Built-in Freeview tuner
- + Great picture quality
- + Virtual control of any video product
- – No wireless capability
- – Price – check out other models

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"With easy setup and a built-in Freeview tuner, it delivers on its promise, but a good internet speed is crucial."

ENTRY-LEVEL DSLR

Canon EOS 1000D

£578 Outgrown your compact digital camera? This is for you

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Canon
www.canon.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/447626

KEY SPECS

Sensor: 10.1 megapixels **ISO:** 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 **Shutter speed:** 30-1/4000 sec **Drive mode:** single, continuous, self-timer (2, 10 sec) **LCD:** 2.5-inch transfer: USB 2.0, video **Dimensions (body):** 126.1x97.5x61.9mm **Weight (body):** 450g

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Excellent handling
- ⊕ Competitive specs and price
- ⊕ Live View option
- ⊕ Lets your talents grow
- ⊖ Faces stiff competition. . . .
- ⊖ ...especially from cheaper, better 450D

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A fantastic camera, but the EOS 450D is, confusingly, better and cheaper."

Canon
EOS
1000D
CANON ZOOM LENS EF-S 18-55mm 1:3.5-5.6 IS
IMAGE STABILIZER
φ58mm
CANON INC.

Canon's 1000D is a great choice for anyone looking to step up from a compact camera.

When Canon launched the EOS 300D in 2003, it created a new market segment. The 300D was the first digital SLR to break the $1,000 barrier, bringing true semi-pro digital camera features to the mass market for the first time.

It was succeeded by the EOS 350D then the EOS 400D. You might think, then, that the EOS 450D was the straight successor to the 400D, but in fact both were sold alongside each other to slightly different markets. The 1000D has now properly replaced the 400D, and its styling and specification strongly suggest that the 400D and 450D got cosy one evening and, after a few months' gestation, along came the 1000D.

The specs

From the 450D it has inherited the slightly patronising big-buttons-and-huge-labels rear styling, the choice of SD rather than CompactFlash, a dedicated ISO-switching button, the image-stabilising 18-55mm lens – an upgrade to the 400D's vanilla 18-55mm – and Live View, which lets you compose and shoot using the 2.5-inch LCD rather than the viewfinder. Yet it has inherited the 400D's sensor resolution, smaller rear LCD size and 3fps JPEG burst rate, but at the same time it loses the 400D's IR remote control sensor and drops from a nine to a seven-point AF system.

This, then, is an evolution of the entry-level EOS line, not a radical revolution. The body is still small and light, but that can be a plus or a minus depending on the user. If you own a 400D, there are few compelling reasons to upgrade. The image stabilising lens is nice – giving you one or maybe two extra stops on your aperture – but you could always add it yourself. The only really big change is the same Live View system Canon introduced in the 450D. The idea is that rather than composing a picture by looking through the viewfinder, you can compose shots using the 2.5-inch LCD on the back of the camera. Technically, the system works well, and means you can compose shots in awkward situations. It's a bit of a mucky system to use, however; it's not clear which buttons do what for Live View, and the configuration options are buried in odd places in the menu system.

> "The dedicated ISO-switching button is very welcome and the controls fall comfortably under your fingers"

Otherwise, the 1000D handles incredibly well. The dedicated ISO-switching button is very welcome, all the controls fall comfortably under your fingers, and the menu system is generally fantastic.

The 1000D's photos are generally very good. The kit lens is a little on the soft side, but it's still a cracking all-rounder. Photos are occasionally a little dull, but if you shoot in RAW and then do some post-production work in *Photoshop* or *Photoshop Elements*, you'll be delighted with the results.

This is, in isolation, a great camera, but despite creating this market segment Canon doesn't have it to itself. The Sony Alpha DSLR-A200 (which offers in-camera image stabilisation) and the Nikon D60 are both very compelling, viable alternatives.

The competition

The biggest competition, however, comes from the 1000D's own big brother. The EOS 450D, at the time or writing, was available for £1.79 less than the 1000D on Amazon and if you're very quick – the offer ends on 30 September – you'll get an additional £50 cashback from Canon on the 450D. It has a higher-resolution sensor, a bigger screen, and even better burst performance.

Everything about this camera, from its price and PowerShot-inspired styling to its adoption of SD, marks it out as a model for folks upgrading from a compact, and it does well as a bridge camera that lets you learn proper photography and evolve your camera setup as you learn.

Christopher Phin

We much prefer the 400D's more grown-up styling to the slightly patronising 1000D's.

MENU DISP.
Quality RAW+L
Red-eye On/Off Off
Beep On
Shoot w/o card On
Review time 2 sec.
Canon
Av
WB
SET
AF

LAPTOP SHOULDER BAG

Brenthaven Sling Backpack

£60 Throwing a laptop over your shoulder never felt so natural

Pouches galore and fine protection for your MacBook.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Brenthaven
www.brenthaven.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/458033

KEY SPECS

Sizes: Sling I (13-inch),
Sling II (13 and 15-inch)
Colours: Grey and orange, **Weight:** 1kg
Dimension: 14.5"W x 21"H x 11cm

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Comfortable
- ⊕ Built to last
- ⊕ Well organised
- ⊕ Excellent materials and stitching
- ⊕ Protective
- ⊖ Exterior flap needs to open wider

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A clever and comfortable bag that's both well built and very sensibly laid out."

This Slingbag design is a departure from the typical creations that Brenthaven is known for around our office. Brenthaven has always struck us as a maker of sensible bags; perhaps not the most dazzling designer out there, but you can bank on excellent quality stitching, formidable padding and great attention to detail, not least their clever use of internal space. These qualities have largely been confined to their briefcase-style bags, but this Slingbag is something new.

We tried different ways to carry the bag. Firstly over one shoulder, then over our neck (carry-strap across the chest), then used the carry handle to carry it like a briefcase. We stuffed it with a MacBook, though it would also take a 15-inch Macbook Pro with no bother. It's most comfortable the way the strap crosses your body – for a man, at least. The weight of the laptop, accessories and a wedge of paper files is evenly distributed. You hardly notice the weight because it rests on strong areas of the body, unlike briefcase designs.

We like the slim form factor too. Even when stuffed to the gills, the weight never gets too heavy. Office turtles who like to carry their world around on their back will need to look for a bigger bag, though. On the outside you get pouches on the strap, under the rear flap, above the rear flap, and a water bottle pouch on the exposed flank. Inside you get a well-padded laptop slot with velcro clasp, a business card pocket and some pen loops. The laptop slot doesn't take up all the space; plenty is left for A4 folders. The hallmarks of Brenthaven's manufacturing skills are all present. The materials used are first class, and the attention to detail is equally well executed. With the flaps and zips closed the inside is protected well from rain.

The price is about right and the quality is obvious – if this style is for you then we recommend picking one up!

James Ellerbeck

DRIVE DOCK

Imono HI-2503

£17 Never open up your MacBook for a hard disk again

IMONO HI-2503
CF I/II
SATA
IDE

A handy little gizmo that lets you mount notebook hard disks in seconds.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Imono
www.storagedepot.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/458087

KEY SPECS

Supports: 2.5-in IDE and SATA drives, and CompactFlash **Interface:** USB 2.0

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Cheap
- ⊕ Efficient
- ⊕ Easy to use
- ⊕ Supports IDE and SATA
- ⊕ Pretty solid
- ⊖ No protection from debris

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A simple and efficient design and a handy tool for those that need it."

We've reviewed drive docks before – devices that let you mount hard disks on your Mac without wrestling them inside an enclosure first – but none so compact and handy as this one. It has three ports for three different types of drive: there's a slot for a CompactFlash card so you can easily import pictures from a digital camera that uses it. There's no support for SD or any other memory format, though, so this is only likely to be of use to high-end camera owners.

The important bit, however, is that on either side of the HI-2503 there's a slot for the two different types of hard disk interfaces, IDE (sometimes called ATA or PATA) and SATA. They're designed only for 2.5-inch laptop drives so you won't be able to use this if you need to access information on a 3.5-inch desktop drive, but the support for IDE and SATA makes is a very flexible system for the smaller-format disks.

It's simplicity itself to use: you simply slot the bare drive you want to access into the appropriate side, connect the dock to your Mac over USB, and you're ready to go. You can do everything you would if the drive was fitted inside an external case – copy files to and from it, format it, erase stuff – so it's a great help if you regularly work with small notebook drives. It would be a great way, say, to clone your MacBook's hard disk to a new, larger disk before you fit it yourself, something that's really easy to do with the MacBook line.

It happily bus-powered the drives we tried it with – no messy extra cables needed here – though while it would mount a hard disk and a CF card simultaneously, it understandably balked at trying to power two notebook drives at the same time.

It's certainly not a product with mass-market appeal, but it gets our thumbs up because it does its job with the minimum of fuss and at a wallet-friendly price.

Christopher Phin

TRACKBALL MOUSE

Genius Traveler 350

£18 Numerous buttons and a trackball mouse

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Genuis
www.genius-europe.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/457675

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Works as advertised but struck us as a solution to a problem that doesn't exist."

The Traveler 350 is a USB-powered trackball mouse with six buttons and a scroll wheel. A tongue and groove holder in the form of a plastic base with a suction cup harnesses the device to your laptop. The trackball and buttons work well enough, although in a confined space it's difficult to master, while the 'Flip 3D' button appears only to work in Windows Vista. The scroll wheel is also a little loose and clunky. The software comes with a Mac driver for programming the buttons and works fine.

Irrespective of the faults, several things are working against the Traveler 350 being adopted by Mac users. Firstly, when attached to the front-left or front-right of a Mac laptop it stretches the USB cable over the other free ports. But more than this, Mac laptops come with a perfectly good trackpad of their own, and many more function buttons, begging the question: why buy?

James Ellerbeck

LAPTOP PROTECTOR

Autosafe CubeByte

£33 Excellent laptop cable in every way except one

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Autosafe
www.cubebyte.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/457625

VERDICT

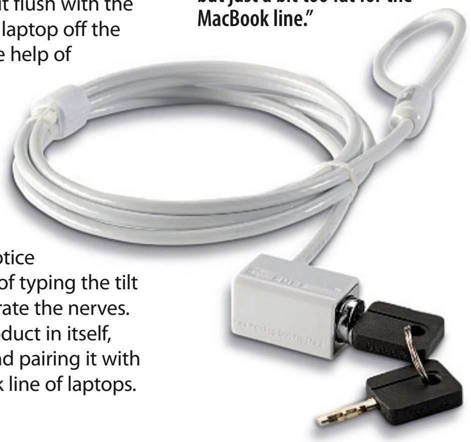
★★★☆☆

"A fine lock for a thick laptop but just a bit too fat for the MacBook line."

CubeByte's laptop lock is a very good quality lock and cable, however it is slightly too wide for our test laptops. Although it will lock its head into the Kensington lock slot of either a MacBook or MacBook Pro, or older Mac laptops with a lock slot, and although the cable is easily strong enough to harness the laptop to a table leg securely, the lock casing is just a few millimetres too big to sit flush with the table (unless you raise your laptop off the surface of the table with the help of a laptop stand).

If this were the only laptop lock on the market then we would consider buying it, but it's not, of course. The head sticks out just enough to tilt the laptop, which you hardly notice at first, but over a morning of typing the tilt on the keyboard starts to grate the nerves. This is a decent enough product in itself, but we wouldn't recommend pairing it with anything from the MacBook line of laptops.

James Ellerbeck



GREEN RECHARGER

Solio Magnesium Edition

£50 Generate your own electricity

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Genuis
www.genius-europe.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/457716

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A very useful travel companion if you need to make an emergency call and your iPhone is out of juice."

This magnesium model solar charger is a big step up from Solio's bulky H1000 Hybrid product. Instead of one long solar panel, the Mg Edition has three shorter solar panels that fan out and pack away in a small cocoon format, making the whole offering a better travel companion.

In the box you get a range of USB adaptors for charging all major brands of mobile phones and a USB-out for charging iPods and the iPhone. The Solio stores the power it generates so you can charge your device overnight – it takes around eight hours to fill, depending on the weather. This is a great little device for those into space-conscious backpacking. The Solio charger is a far better solution than those terrible one-time charge disposable batteries. For this reason alone, we are firm fans of the Solio Mg Edition.

James Ellerbeck

PORTABLE MOUSE

Logitech v550 Nano Mouse

£40 A superb wireless mouse, but is it for your Mac?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Logitech
www.logitech.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/453907

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Handles extremely well and sports one of the smallest USB receivers we've seen."

Logitech has dozens of different mice on the shelves at any one time, though not all are Mac-compatible like this one. The v550 comes with a small plastic peg that sticks to your laptop lid and clips into a shoe on the base of the mouse. You then hang the mouse from the peg when you carry the laptop around.

When clipped to the peg, the mouse powers down. It powers up automatically when you slide it out from the grip, plus there's a separate manual on/off button. The tiny USB receiver tucks away into the mouse when not in use. The two supplied AA batteries are good for 18 months' use. You get two buttons, a scroll wheel and a scroll-wheel click. (You need to download a free software driver from Logitech to enable sideways scroll and the application switch button.) Overall, the mouse is comfortable to use and tracked well on all of our test surfaces.

James Ellerbeck

Sold out!

ISSUE 193 April 2008

60 Apple gems
Why you need the new iPod touch
Save hard drive space
Make *iDVD* slideshows
On the road with Vodafone USB modem
How the iPhone's WiFi location works
Six media-playing tested

On the DVD
Jigsaw Puzzle 1.1: Make jigsaws
Schreiben 2.4: Word processor
Pano2Movie 1.2.1: Video panoramas
Plus: German lessons, demos & more

ISSUE 194 May 2008

Essential Mac health check
MacBook vs MacBook Air
Easy DTP in *Office 2008*
Back up without *Time Machine*
Enhance Leopard's Quick Look
Connect Macs and PCs together
Six 32-inch LCD TVs rounded up

On the DVD
Captain FTP 5.2: Upload files to the web
KavaTunes 1.9: Web jukebox for *iTunes*
WebCopier 2.0: Browse websites offline
Plus: Portuguese lessons, demos & more

ISSUE 195 June 2008

OS X secrets revealed
The truth about Apple TV
Fix photos in *Aperture*
Get .Mac for less
Back up your data wirelessly
The future of the iPhone
Security software put to the test

On the DVD
MacJournal 3.3: Write blogs and journals
NetFinder 2.3.3: All your FTP needs
WebDesign 2.9.6: Easy web editor
Plus: Chinese lessons, demos & more

ISSUE 196 Summer 2008

iPod and iTunes masterclass
Get more from *Pages*
Add RAM to a Mac mini
Enter the world of Hackintosh
We investigate data recovery labs
Give your Mac a makeover
Six external hard drives tested

On the DVD
Narrator 1.14: Text-to-speech tool
TouchCopy 2.5: Back up your iPod's data
PhotoAccute Studio 2.70: Enhance pics
Plus: Dutch lessons, demos & more

ISSUE 197 July 2008

The ultimate Mac survival guide
Save hundreds by buying refurb
Get more from *iWork '08*
Use a Mac as a base station
Uninstall apps from your Mac
Brand new iMac revealed
Sub-£150 compact cameras tested

On the DVD
Citra FX 2.0: Manipulate images
skEdit: Text editor for web developers
TimeSlice 2.8: Timing and billing app
Plus: Japanese lessons, demos & more

ISSUE 198 August 2008

iLife Expert
Get free antivirus protection
Tips for all the *Office* apps
Mail merge using *Pages*
Photoshop tips and tricks
iPhone 3G report
Email clients Group Test

On the DVD
Stomp 1.3: Compress video for email
Spectasia 3: 3D control interface
Artist's Butler 2.8: Art studio manager
Plus: Widgets, video tutorials & more

Back issues

Missed a copy of MacFormat? Order a back issue now, but hurry – stock is limited!

You've only just missed...

Issue 199 – September 2008

Connect your Mac
Sync your phone, iPod or PDA with ease

Plus…
- 32 great iPhone apps!
- Mac OS X timesavers
- Get creative with photos
- AppleCare investigated
- Make a website in a weekend
- Financial software rated

On the DVD

BitVice Lite 1.8: Manage and compress video
Dream Capture 1: Record video on your Mac
ExactScan 1.8.5: Digitise your documents
Plus: Welsh lessons, video tutorials, games & more!

To subscribe to MacFormat now, go to www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

To order back issues telephone **+44 (0)870 837 4773**
or go to **www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk**

If we don’t cover it,
you won’t want it _

TechRadar.com has 10,000 technology products and 6,000 expert reviews _

That’s twice as much as any other website in the UK, which means you’ll always find the information and advice you need about the tech gear you want to buy.

techradar.com
Deep into technology

Next issue…

Get it for free!

SAVE!
£££s on software

FIX YOUR MAC FOR NOTHING!

Is the credit crunch biting? Save money with the best free programs & services

DISCOVER HOW TO…

- Extend a wireless network with our help
- Stream music to your iPod touch or iPhone
- Organise your music in iTunes

** Contents subject to change*

PLUS!
Web browsers group test

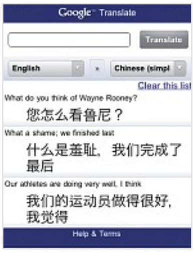
Mac FORMAT
ON SALE
Wednesday
15 October
2008

iPhone apps

Christopher Phin picks out the very best software for the iPhone and iPod touch

SNIPPETS

Google translate



What do you think of Wayne Rooney?
您怎么看鲁尼？
What a shame; we finished last
什么是羞耻，我们完成了最后
Our athletes are doing very well, I think
我们的运动员做得很好，我觉得

Born out of a collaboration at Google, created because one engineer was headed off on holiday and wanted an iPhone-friendly phrase book, this web-based reworking of Google's translate services fits well onto the iPhone's screen. We can't vouch for the accuracy of the translations, but it should at least be good enough to get you out of a sticky spot with a customs officer. Point *Safari* on your iPhone or iPod touch to translate.google.com and you'll get this view.

App Store sales

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, Apple CEO Steve Jobs revealed that in the first month since it opened, the App Store has served over 60 million applications to customers. Though most of the applications are free, Apple has sold an average of $1 million dollars a day in applications alone, for a total of about $30 million in sales over that month. Okay, we are genuinely impressed.

iPHONE APP OF THE MONTH

Pennies

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£1.79 Keep track of what you're spending… in style!

The App Store is stuffed full of apps designed to help you track business expenses, but this one is a bit different. *Pennies* is not designed to help travelling executives note just how many bottles of Krug were consumed during a fact-finding mission, but to help everyone simply keep track of how much money they've spent in a given month.

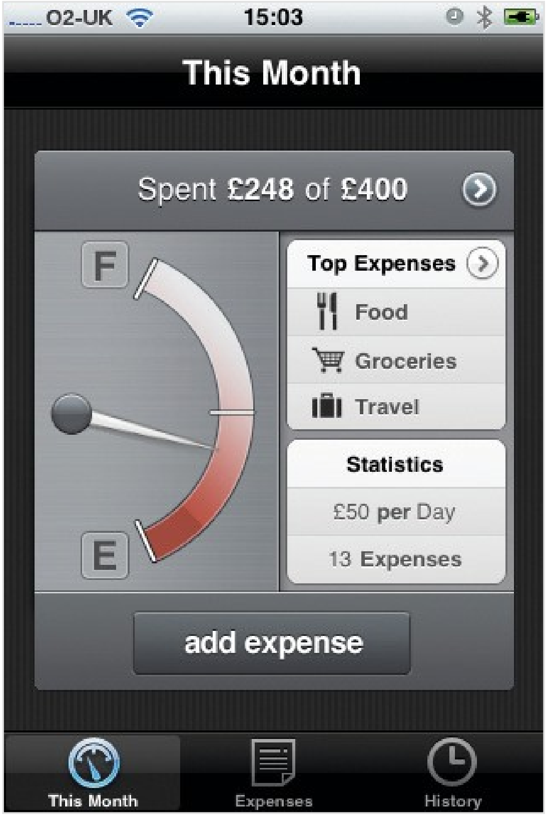
You set yourself a budget – and this is one of our only gripes as it can be hard to set the amount using the slider input method provided; we'd have rather seen a plain keypad – then every time you spend any money, you simply fire up *Pennies*, tap once to add an expense, enter the amount with a keypad, and pick the expense category. You have the option of **General**, **Food**, **Amusement**, **Travel**, **Household**, **Auto**, **Hobby**, **Personal**, **Electronics** and **Groceries**, and while some would prefer the ability to define custom categories, we're happy with the presets. How much money is left in your budget for that month is shown with a fuel gauge-style display, and the home page display shows you how much you've spent per day, and also identifies the top three things you spend your money on. Each individual expense can have a note linked to it, and those expenses which have a note attached in the expenses list are shown with a paperclip icon.

> "Pennies is a really slick application, and the ease with which you can enter transactions is commendable"

It's a really slick application, and the ease with which you can enter transactions is commendable; you can have an expense entered in the time it takes you to walk from the till to the door, and you can slip your iPhone or iPod touch back into your pocket and get on with your life.

Sure, we'd like to see more. The ability to mark certain expenses as 'claimable' would be good for those who actually do have expense accounts, and some syncing with a desktop or online version would be great as a way of exporting and analysing your spending habits even further. The budget setting slider just doesn't make sense – it's particularly tricky for smaller amounts, such as we Brits might be entering with our strong pound – but at least it picked up our currency symbol automatically.

Pennies is a cracking little app, and we have no hesitation is recommending it, even in its current state.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"A great way to keep track of your spending, and to see where you might need to cut back. It looks gorgeous and won't, itself, break the bank!"

PRESENTATION HELPER

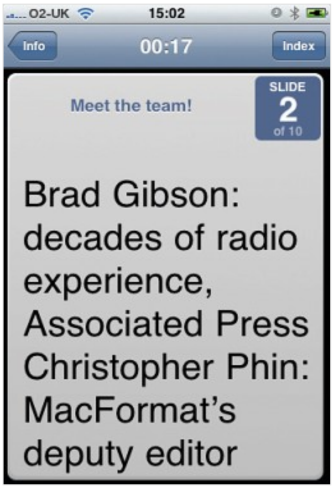
Stage Hand

£4.99 It's not just a presentation slide controller

Stage Hand turns your iPhone into a remote control for presentations on your Mac. You load the app onto your iPhone then launch a little helper app on your Mac. Through the magic of Bonjour they discover each other on the same WiFi network – you can always create a WiFi network from your laptop if there isn't one already there – then you can pick which open presentation to start on screen.

It pulls down slides' titles and presenter notes, lets you advance and rewind slides, and features a timer. Best of all, though, is that you can rotate your iPhone, see the slide, and tap to have details highlighted on the presentation display. It's handled beautifully, too, and the developer tells us it's hard at work to allow slide advance in this view.

We'd like the support to be a bit more coherent and obvious, but the developer's site can get you started.



Meet the team!

Brad Gibson: decades of radio experience, Associated Press Christopher Phin: MacFormat's deputy editor

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Only works with Keynote at the moment, but it's a stunning app; the highlight function is superb."

PASSWORD KEEPER

1Password

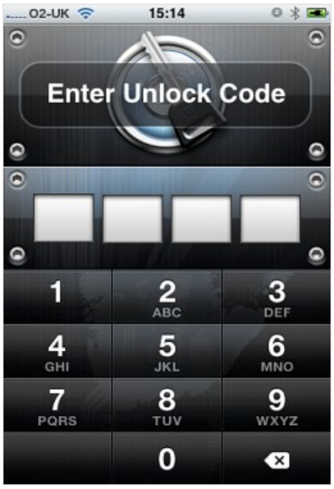
Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£FREE A polished application that keeps data safe

One of the big problems with *Safari* on the iPhone is that it doesn't have an equivalent of the Mac's keychain, so you have to remember and enter passwords manually each time you want to log into a secure site.

1Password solves that problem by providing you with a secure app in which you can store login details and notes. It's annoying that it uses its own sandboxed version of *Safari*, but it's forgivable given the technical limitations. Two levels of security are offered: a four-digit PIN (in addition to the system-level four-digit PIN you can lock your entire system with) and an optional master password.

Enter details correctly, and you can tap on a site, it will load in *1Password*'s embedded browser, and fill your details in for you ready to log in. It's free for a limited time, and it can sync with the desktop version on your Mac, too.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"We're not saying it's hacker-proof, but it's undeniably handy. Very polished, too."

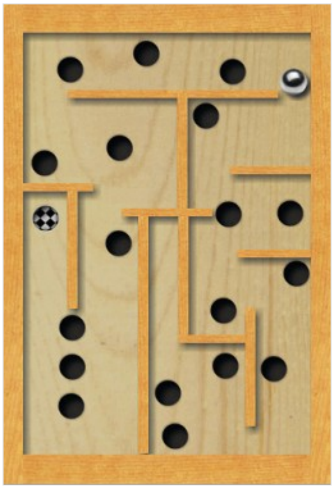
PUZZLE GAME

Labyrinth Lite Edition

£FREE While away any boring meetings…

Proof, if any were needed, that what makes a game great isn't the graphics but the gameplay. If we're being honest, we actually prefer this game to *De Blob,* as although the latter is much richer and much more work has been put into it, this is sheer fun and a great way to spend a few minutes waiting for a bus. You use the iPhone's accelerometer to guide a metal ball around a wooden maze, skirting the traps; though the graphics are a bit flat, the physics are superb. This lite edition features only ten levels, but there's enough there to keep you distracted from work; the full edition is only £3.99.

You can calibrate the accelerometer to 'flat', too, which gives *Labyrinth Lite Edition* a double life as a spirit level. And it's a cracking way to show off your iPhone's accelerometer to friends; everyone instantly gets what to do!



VERDICT

★★★★½

"A 21st century reworking of a classic, and it's a great way to show off your iPhone, too!"

ARCADE GAME

De Blob

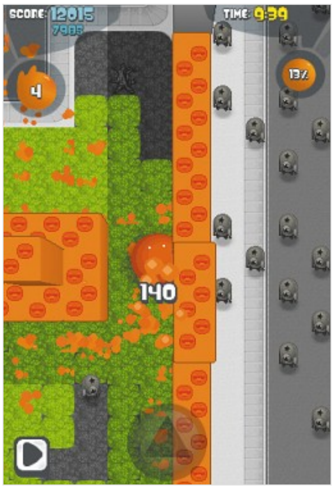
Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£4.99 A proper, full-blown game; cheap at a fiver

This is exemplary iPhone gaming. At its simplest, you simply roll a little spherical monster around a townscape, controlling its movements simply by tilting the phone and using its accelerometer. You bump into little pots of paint which change your colour, and you can then bump into buildings to bring a splash of colour to the drab grey world.

There's lots of variety to keep you engaged, though. Colours can be mixed, and there are inky baddies that cause you to leach colour away from buildings instead of adding it. You can squash them by tapping on a target, and if you get 'inked', just find a pond to wash yourself off in.

The game is due to be launched for Nintendo Wii and DS, but though the Wii's graphics capabilities are more robust than the iPhone's, the graphics here are pretty impressive, and the gameplay is fantastic. ●



VERDICT

★★★★★

"Looks great and offers plenty of scope for more committed gamers. Wii be damned!"

Shareware

Our shareware guru, Craig Grannell looks at his pick of the month's best shareware

Mac FORMAT On the disc — Find all reviewed titles on this issue's *MacFormat* disc

SHAREWARE OF THE MONTH

Glims 1.0b6

£FREE Boost Safari's feature-set with this fantastic freeware plug-in

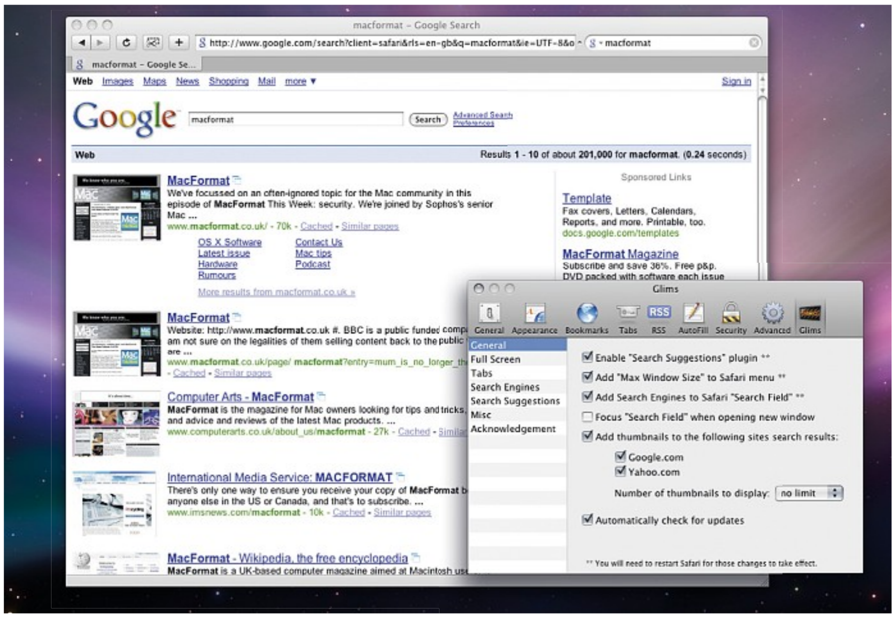
Apple *Safari* is a bare-bones browser, and plug-ins like *Saft* have aimed to add to its capabilities, but *Saft* has been problematic of late, leading to fraught users trying to repair broken systems. *Glims* is a new challenger, offering a fair chunk of its rival's features, and in our tests has proven itself to be both stable and reliable.

With a couple of exceptions, the *Glims* feature-set deals with what we consider *Safari*'s major shortcomings. It provides type-ahead search functionality (just start typing and relevant strings are highlighted, without having to first bring up the **Find** banner), and each tap of ⌘+[Z] re-opens your most recently closed tabs. There's also a decent full-screen mode that's fairly configurable, enabling you to decide which toolbars remain visible.

Glims also boosts *Safari*'s search capabilities. It adds a slew of search engines to the **Search** field, so you're not limited to using just Google for searches, and a drop-down menu provides incremental searching, along the lines of *Inquisitor* (**www.inquisitorx.com**) or OS X's built-in Spotlight technology. Also, Google and Yahoo! search results are displayed with optional thumbnails, which are handy when trying to pinpoint a relevant website more easily.

There are few negative things to say about *Glims*. Any menu clutter it adds can be dealt with by disabling options you don't use, but *Glims* really needs to bundle in ad-blocking and keyword searches to beat *Saft* in terms of features. The speed at which it's evolving suggests these things will arrive sooner rather than later, anyway.

In the meantime, the stability of *Glims* and its lack of a price tag make it a no-brainer for *Safari* users pining for the sorts of options found in more feature-packed browsers, such as *Firefox* and *Opera*.


macformat – Google Search
http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en-gb&q=macformat&ie=UTF-8&o
macformat
macformat – Google Se...
Web Images Maps News Shopping Mail more ▾
Sign in
Google
Search
Advanced Search
Preferences
Glims
General Appearance Bookmarks Tabs RSS AutoFill Security Advanced Glims
General
Full Screen
Tabs
Search Engines
Search Suggestions
Misc
Acknowledgement

Web — Results 1 - 10 of about 201,000 for macformat. (0.24 seconds)

MacFormat
We've focussed on an often-ignored topic for the Mac community in this episode of MacFormat This Week: security. We're joined by Sophos's senior Mac ...
www.macformat.co.uk/ - 70k - Cached - Similar pages
OS X Software · Latest issue · Hardware · Rumours · Contact Us · Mac tips · Podcast
More results from macformat.co.uk »

MacFormat
Website: http://www.macformat.co.uk #. BBC is a public funded comp… am not sure on the legalities of them selling content back to the public … are ...
www.macformat.co.uk/page/ macformat?entry=mum_is_no_longer_th… - Cached - Similar pages

Computer Arts - MacFormat
MacFormat is the magazine for Mac owners looking for tips and tricks, and advice and reviews of the latest Mac products. ...
www.computerarts.co.uk/about_us/macformat - 27k - Cached - Simila…

International Media Service: MACFORMAT
There's only one way to ensure you receive your copy of MacFormat b… anyone else in the US or Canada, and that's to subscribe. ...
www.imsnews.com/macformat - 10k - Cached - Similar pages

MacFormat - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
MacFormat is a UK-based computer magazine aimed at Macintosh use…

Sponsored Links

Template
Fax covers, Letters, Calendars, Reports, and more. Printable, too.
docs.google.com/templates

MacFormat Magazine
Subscribe and save 36%. Free p&p. DVD packed with software each issue

☑ Enable "Search Suggestions" plugin **
☑ Add "Max Window Size" to Safari menu **
☑ Add Search Engines to Safari "Search Field" **
☐ Focus "Search Field" when opening new window
☑ Add thumbnails to the following sites search results:
  ☑ Google.com
  ☑ Yahoo.com
Number of thumbnails to display: no limit
☑ Automatically check for updates

** You will need to restart Safari for those changes to take effect.

> "With a couple of exceptions, the Glims feature-set deals with what we consider Safari's major shortcomings"

CONTACT INFO

Developer www.machangout.com
Vendor www.machangout.com

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Lacks some of Saft's features, but also its price tag. Stable and useful - we like it!"

SNIPPETS

Quicksilver returns?

Launcher-cum-productivity aid *Quicksilver* (**www.blacktree.com**) was, for a while, the sort of thing that made certain Mac users (not least your correspondent) feel all warm and fuzzy, such was its greatness. Then Leopard arrived and parts of *Quicksilver* broke, then *Quicksilver* went open source, and development slowed. According to 43 Folders (Merlin Mann's website of productivity tips and ideas for making your life easier), there's now a glimmer of hope, with new *Quicksilver* builds in the not-too-distant future. More at **www.43folders.com/2008/07/08/quicksilver-update.**

Tasty icons

Back when we had far too much free time, we messed around with our Mac's icons an awful lot, using hundreds of freely available sets to pepper our Desktop with pixellated versions of cartoon characters, fruit, and, er, cartoon fruit. Leopard's massive icons have reduced the number of available sets, but if you've a hankering for something different, try Louis Harboe's *Donut Icons 1.0* (**www.graphicpeel.com**), make a quip about Macs being tasty, and then sit there with a smug look on your face.

Speakapedia 1.0.1

$15 (£7) www.shinydevelopment.com/speakapedia

Its accuracy is sometimes questionable, but Wikipedia does offer a wealth of knowledge. *Speakapedia* provides an alternate means of digesting Wikipedia on the move – by listening to articles.

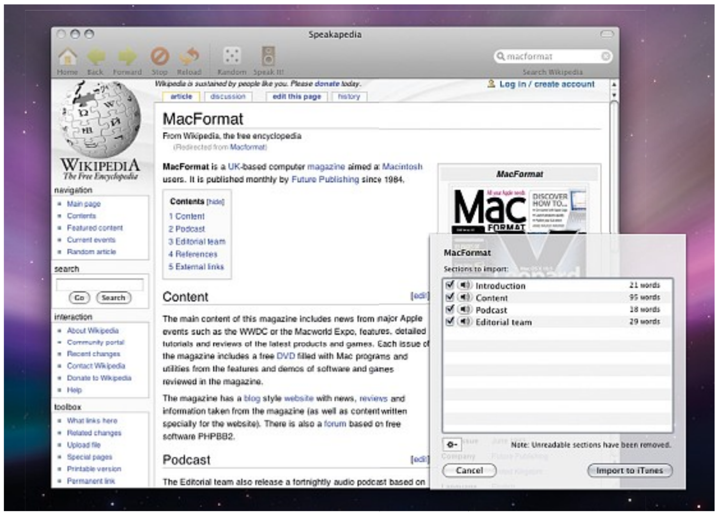
Speakapedia's interface is a polished mini-browser for searching Wikipedia. Upon finding an interesting article, the **Speak It!** button enables you to define sections to import into *iTunes*. Once imported, an article's 'album' name is as per the Wikipedia article title, and its cover based on any available imagery.

Speakapedia is an interesting idea, in particular for commuters. It could seriously use a queueing function (rather than users encoding articles one at a time), and some spoken text is hampered by the Mac's speech capabilities, but other than that, *Speakapedia* has no apparent flaws. Read more in our tutorial on page 58.

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A great way to digest useful nuggets of information from Wikipedia."


Speakapedia
Home
Back
Forward
Stop
Reload
Random
Speak It!
macformat
Search Wikipedia
Log in / create account
article
discussion
edit this page
history
WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia
navigation
Main page
Contents
Featured content
Current events
Random article
search
Go
Search
interaction
About Wikipedia
Community portal
Recent changes
Contact Wikipedia
Donate to Wikipedia
Help
toolbox
What links here
Related changes
Upload file
Special pages
Printable version
Permanent link
Contents [hide]
1 Content
2 Podcast
3 Editorial team
4 References
5 External links
[edit]
Cancel
Import to iTunes

Wikipedia is sustained by people like you. Please donate today.

MacFormat

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from Macformat)

MacFormat is a UK-based computer magazine aimed at Macintosh users. It is published monthly by Future Publishing since 1984.

Content

The main content of this magazine includes news from major Apple events such as the WWDC or the Macworld Expo, features, detailed tutorials and reviews of the latest products and games. Each issue of the magazine includes a free DVD filled with Mac programs and utilities from the features and demos of software and games reviewed in the magazine.

The magazine has a blog style website with news, reviews and information taken from the magazine (as well as content written specially for the website). There is also a forum based on free software PHPBB2.

Podcast

The Editorial team also release a fortnightly audio podcast based on

MacFormat

Sections to import:

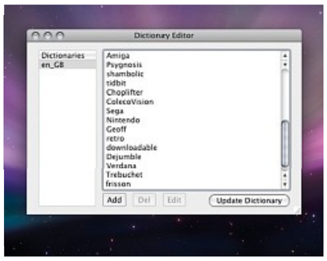
☑ Introduction 21 words
☑ Content 95 words
☑ Podcast 18 words
☑ Editorial team 29 words

Note: Unreadable sections have been removed.

Dictionary Editor v1.0.1

£FREE www.pariahware.com/dictionaryeditor.php

Pariahware, Inc. describes its *Dictionary Editor* program as a "no-frills Mac OS X dictionary editor" and it's not wrong about the no-frills aspect. The application lacks even a custom icon, and its interface is brutally simple. However, *Dictionary Editor v1.0.1* does enable you to add, delete and edit custom entries in your Mac's spell-checking dictionaries, making it an especially handy application for writers. It's just a shame it doesn't provide the option to restart AppleSpell.service.


Dictionary Editor
Dictionaries
Add
Del
Edit
Update Dictionary

en_GB

Amiga
Psygnosis
shambolic
tidbit
Choplifter
ColecoVision
Sega
Nintendo
Geoff
retro
downloadable
Dejumble
Verdana
Trebuchet
frisson

VERDICT

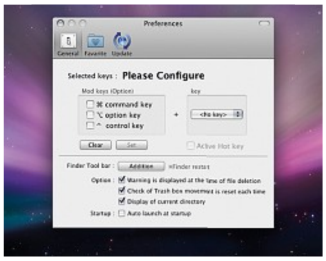
★★★☆☆

"Simple and to the point, but could do with a little spit and polish."

QuickCopy 2.1.5

$10 (£5) www.mactips-lib.net/m/software/quickcopy/en/main.html

Particularly handy for mouse users, this little application nestles in *Finder*'s toolbar, and enables you to move or copy items to a folder using a standard dialog box. Although Mac OS X provides **Copy** and **Paste** functionality via keyboard shortcuts, *QuickCopy*'s **move** option mirrors **Cut**, and the mouse operation should be intuitive for new users. That said, *QuickCopy*'s impenetrable 'Engrish' throughout will confuse some – we used it for days and we're still not sure what some of the options do.


Preferences
General
Favorite
Update
Clear
Set
Addition

Selected keys : Please Configure

Mod keys (Option)

☐ ⌘ command key
☐ ⌥ option key
☐ ^ control key

key

<no key>

☐ Active Hot key

Finder Tool bar : Addition =Finder restart

Option : ☑ Warning is displayed at the time of file deletion
☑ Check of Trash box movement is reset each time
☑ Display of current directory

Startup : ☐ Auto launch at startup

VERDICT

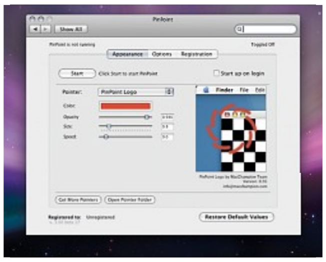
★★½☆☆

"A useful idea with simple execution compromised by bad English translation."

Pinpoint 3.0b17

$10 (£5) www.macchampion.com/pinpoint_features.shtml

Pinpoint 3.0b17 makes it easier to find your cursor should you have trouble seeing it. Options are available to toggle the application via a hot-key or after a user-defined period of time, and a second hot-key for centring the cursor is also provided. The cursors themselves (which can be added to) vary from genuinely practical usability aids (crosshairs, circles) to annoying JavaScript-like trailers. Some of the full-screen cursors failed to work on our test Mac, however, and other bugs were evident.


PinPoint
Show All
Toggled Off
Appearance
Options
Registration
Start
Start up on login
Pointer:
PinPoint Logo
Color
Opacity
Size
Speed
Finder
File
Edit
Get More Pointers
Open Pointer Folder
Registered to:
Unregistered
Restore Default Values

VERDICT

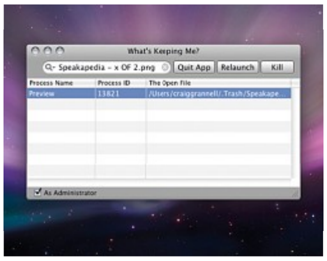
★★☆☆☆

"Not bad, but Mouseposé is better, despite offering fewer cursor options."

What's Keeping Me? 1.3

$5 (£3) www.hamsoftengineering.com/products/wkm/wkm.html

Every Mac owner occasionally finds that they can't eject a disk or empty the Trash because an item is still in use. *What's Keeping Me?* aims to deal with this problem by detailing the application that's stopping you from performing your task. **Quit**, **Relaunch** and **Kill** buttons enable you to affect selected applications, but we found system-level components that were stuck in the trash weren't noted. For jammed documents and pictures, though, this application has proven to be very handy. ●


What's Keeping Me?
Quit App
Relaunch
Kill

Speakapedia – x OF 2.png

Process Name	Process ID	The Open File
Preview	13821	/Users/craiggrannell/.Trash/Speakape...

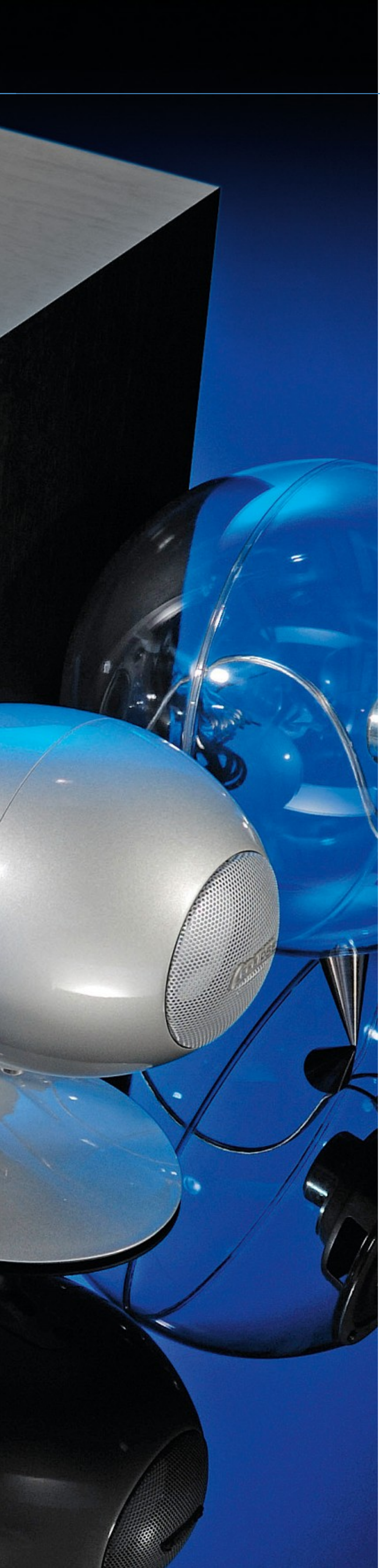
☑ As Administrator

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"Amusing icon, and it does what's asked of it most of the time."

DYNAUDIO
DYNAUDIO



MULTIMEDIA SPEAKERS

Sound sensations

Words Rob Mead-Green **Photography** Simon Lees and Neil Godwin

Multimedia speakers have long been known to deliver sub-par stereo performance. Until now…

The rise of the iPod has undoubtedly changed the way we enjoy music forever, but that doesn't mean we're resigned to a future of low bitrate MP3s and shoddy-sounding equipment. Wander around your average hi-fi show and you'll find dozens of docks and accessories that are designed to eke out every ounce of performance from Apple's tiny music player – and there are signs that the Mac is being taken seriously, too.

That's due in part because more and more of us can't be bothered with the rigmarole of having separate music collections for our hi-fis and our computers, but it's also because Apple has given us the tools to enjoy great-sounding tunes on the Mac.

So we've rounded up some of the best-sounding 'audiophile' multimedia speakers available for computers today. The speakers will be judged on value for money and outright performance, enabling you to select the one that best meets your needs and budget. We think you'll agree that our overall winner delivers the best of both. ▶

> "More and more of us can't be bothered with having separate music collections for our hi-fis and our computers"

ON TEST

Beolab 4 PC£560

Dynaudio MC15 £736

Eclipse TD307PAII £400

FH007 £395

Genelec 6010A £398

Micropod SE Active £500

The Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4 speakers have, surprisingly, the most understated design of the bunch.

TEST ONE

Design and build

Speakers need to be rugged and built to last

The hi-fi world has always been filled with weird and wonderful designs as equipment engineers try to find the best-sounding dimensions – and you'll find few exceptions here.

The most outlandish of the bunch is Ferguson Hill's FH007 system, which includes two high frequency horns – almost like a bathtub stood on end – and a pair of mid-range/bass drivers enclosed in what look like mini footballs. All four speaker cabinets are fashioned from translucent plastic, making them appear even weirder, yet more magnificent at the same time.

The polar opposite, then, has to be the Dynaudio MC15 – a high-end multimedia speaker that's unashamedly big, black and boxy. In between these two extremes are the Eclipse TD307PAII, which comprises a pair of egg-shaped speakers and a cone-like amplifier; the Scandyna Micropod SE Active and Bass Ball subwoofer, which look like strays from a design museum; and the Genelec 6010A, which is so industrial-looking it even has black-painted wire mesh grilles over its high-frequency tweeter and mid-range/bass woofer. There's something for everyone here!

RESULTS

Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4	★★★★☆
Dynaudio MC15	★★★★★
Eclipse TD301PAII	★★★★☆
Ferguson Hill FH007	★★★★★
Genelec 6010A	★★★☆☆
Scandyna Micropod SE Active	★★★★☆

TEST TWO

Technology

What makes these speakers stand out?

The Scandyna Micropod SE, Dynaudio MC15, Genelec 6010A and Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4 PC all plump for traditional configurations with a mid-range/bass drive unit and separate high frequency tweeter. Standouts include the Eclipse TD307PAII, which opts for a single full-range driver for scaling both high and low frequencies; and the Ferguson Hill FH007, opting for high frequency horns and separate mid-range/bass units housed in separate spheres.

The speaker systems also take different amplification routes. The Eclipse TD307PAII and Ferguson Hill FH007, for example, marry conventional passive speakers with separate off-board amplifiers; almost all the rest take the active route – an amp embedded in each speaker cabinet to power the drive units. The only exception is the Micropod SE Active, which uses a combination of both approaches – an amplifier inside one speaker powering its drive units directly, while passing amplified audio to its passive partner in the pair.

Some of the designs – most notably the Ferguson Hill FH007, Micropod SE Active and Eclipse TD307PAII – also come with outputs so that you can add an off-board subwoofer.

RESULTS

Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4	★★★★☆
Dynaudio MC15	★★★☆☆
Eclipse TD301PAII	★★★★★
Ferguson Hill FH007	★★★★★
Genelec 6010A	★★★☆☆
Scandyna Micropod SE Active	★★★☆☆

The Dynaudio MC15 speakers have traditional bass units and separate high frequency tweeters.

HOW WE TESTED

We fed all the speakers with a wide range of audio files, ranging from low bit rate podcasts to 256kbps AAC and Apple Lossless tracks. We also mixed up genres to put them through their paces.

Music tracks ranged from the beautiful *Le Festin* sung by Camille from the *Ratatouille* soundtrack, through to Louis Armstrong's *La Vie En Rose* (*WALL•E OST*). We also tried out a disco remix of Goldfrapp's *Ride A White Horse* from the *We Are Glitter* album, Radiohead's *Exit Music (For A Film)* from *OK Computer*, plus the Arctic Monkey's *Dancing Shoes* from *Whatever You Say I Am That's What I'm Not*. On top of all that we added Piotr Palczny's Sonata in B flat minor Opus 35: Grave, *Doppio Movimento* from his *Chopin Sonatas* and *Thirteen* from Kathryn Williams' *Relations* album.

For each speaker test we kept the volume levels in *iTunes* the same. We also used *iVolume* (**www.mani.de/ivolume/index.html**) with **Soundcheck** in *iTunes* turned on to ensure that individual tracks weren't louder than others, and we selected the mid-way point on volume level controls on individual amps and speakers, where available, to achieve consistency. **Sound Enhancer** and the **Equaliser** in *iTunes* were switched off.

Speakers were 'run in' as fully as possible before testing, and we made use of the same audio interconnects and speaker cables throughout. The computer input was always the line out connection on a Power Mac G5, running Leopard 10.5.4 and *iTunes 7.7.1*.

We also ensured that the speakers were set up in the same spot on our desks, and that we varied our listening positions from right in front of them, to see how the speaker's performed environmentally, or 'off-axis'.

iTunes
View
Search
LIBRARY
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
Radio
STORE
iTunes Store
Purchased
PLAYLISTS
Party Shuffle
Mac Format
RATATOUILLE
Ratatouille OST
Disney / Pixar
Name
Time
Artist
Album
Genre
Rating
6 songs, 20.6 minutes, 45.9 MB
Burn Disc

Speakers were tested with a range of music across several genres, from pop to classical.

Some types of cable may struggle to fit into the Eclipse TD307PAII speakers' small binding posts.

TEST THREE

Speaker setup

How easy are they to get up and running?

As you'd expect, it's the active speakers here which are the easiest to get set up and running. That's because speakers like the Genelec 6010A, Micropod SE Active and Dynaudio MC15 all feature line inputs, enabling them to take a direct audio feed from your Mac or from an iPod's headphone jack. In each case you'll need to fit the line output cable to either one speaker in the pair – with a second dedicated cable going from one speaker in the pair to its partner – or both.

The exceptions, of course, are the Eclipse TD307PA and Ferguson Hill FH007. Because they have off-board amplifiers you'll need to run a line output to the amplifier first, then use speaker cables between the amp and the speakers. Ferguson Hill's FH007 setup make this easiest because colour-coded cables come in the box; but the Eclipse is more flexible in that it enables you to supply your own. The only caveat is that the binding posts on the back of the Eclipse TD307PAII speakers are small, so you may find that some kinds of cable simply won't fit. Ditto for the Micropod SE Active – its hybrid design uses one active speaker, and again it's binding posts are small.

RESULTS

Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4	★★★★★
Dynaudio MC15	★★★★★
Eclipse TD301PAII	★★★★☆
Ferguson Hill FH007	★★★★☆
Genelec 6010A	★★★☆☆
Scandyna Micropod SE Active	★★★☆☆

TEST FOUR

Ease of use

Once set up, how easy are they to use?

During testing, a few other foibles reveal themselves. The off-board amps of the Ferguson Hill and Eclipse TD407PAII enable you to tweak volume levels directly. But most of the other speaker systems either force you to do that in *iTunes*, from your keyboard or by using the volume control in *Finder*'s top menu bar. The Micropod SE Active gives you both options, although the volume control is hidden at the back of the active speaker, making it difficult to get to.

In almost all cases you'll need to switch the speakers or amplifiers on manually to get any sound to come out. The exception is the Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4 PC, which automatically detects when sound is being fed to it.

But perhaps the most noticeable difference between all the speakers is how much of your precious desk space they take up. The Scandyna Micropod SE's is the clear winner in this respect. The Genelec 6010A and Eclipse TD307PAII are next smallest, with the Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4 PC and big box Dynaudio MC15 needing much more space. But size-wise, it's the Ferguson Hill FH007 system that comes out the worst of the bunch.

RESULTS

Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4	★★★★☆
Dynaudio MC15	★★★½☆
Eclipse TD301PAII	★★★★★
Ferguson Hill FH007	★★★★☆
Genelec 6010A	★★★½☆
Scandyna Micropod SE Active	★★★★☆

Available space should be part of your considerations when weighing up the Ferguson Hill FH007 speakers.

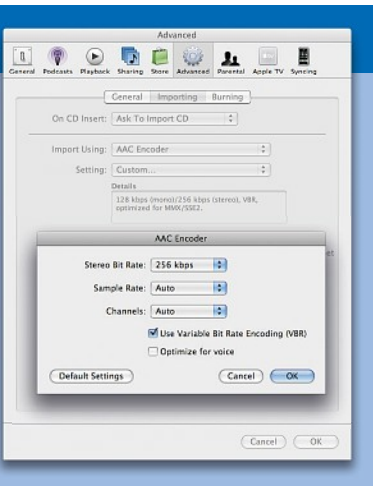
HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF iTUNES

One of the best ways to get great sound from your Mac is to make good choices in *iTunes* about the way in which you want your music encoded. By default, *iTunes* picks 128kbps AAC as its encoding scheme when you're ripping directly from CD (that goes for the majority of DRM-embedded tracks in the iTunes Store), but a bit of judicious tweaking can work wonders when it comes to sound quality – no matter what kind of music you're into.

Stocking up your music library with uncompressed, lossless AIF files is the way to go when it comes to getting quality reproduction – as you'll be creating a direct digital copy of the original CD. The problem, of course, is that your Mac's hard disk and your iPod or iPhone will be rapidly filled with relatively few, albeit quality tracks. Practically, few of us can claim to having unlimited disk space, therefore some kind of quality compromise is inevitable.

Audio purists then will usually plump for Apple Lossless as the next best alternative to AIF. The Apple Lossless codec turns your music files into lossless copies of your CDs (the clue is in the name), but which are roughly half the size of the original. Apple Lossless works very well, but playing tracks encoded with it can have a detrimental effect on the battery life of your iPod or iPhone – which is a massive problem if you like to enjoy music on the move.

The happiest compromise, then, is to set *iTunes* to encode at 256kbps AAC (the same codec used for DRM-free iTunes Plus tracks) with variable bit rate encoding. This ensures that you get near CD quality, without unduly compromising your battery life, or filling your Mac's hard drive with music too quickly. Variable Bit Rate encoding (VBR) works well because it allocates more bits to more intense, information-rich passages of music, while still achieving the target bit rate overall – giving you both quality and convenience wherever or however you choose to listen.



On CD Insert: Ask To Import CD

Import Using: AAC Encoder

Setting: Custom...

Details

128 kbps (mono)/256 kbps (stereo), VBR, optimized for MMX/SSE2.

AAC Encoder

Stereo Bit Rate: 256 kbps

Sample Rate: Auto

Channels: Auto

☑ Use Variable Bit Rate Encoding (VBR)

☐ Optimize for voice

Encoding your tracks at 256kbps AAC with variable bit rate encoding offers the best compromise..

The default crossover settings on the Genelec 6010A monitors don't necessarily give the best sound.

TEST FIVE

Sound quality

The sound quality also needs to be up to scratch

Two things are immediately apparent. The most expensive speakers here – the Beolab 4 PC and Dynaudio MC15 are the only ones that are truly capable of a big, expansive sound like you'd expect from a conventional hi-fi system. The other speakers have more modest ambitions – they sound best when you're sat squarely at your desk.

Ruling out the big boys for a minute, the rest are reasonably similar. Every one of them offers decent playback, but all of them – save for the Micropod SE and Bass Ball subwoofer combo, lack that low-end grunt that the Beolab 4 PC and Dynaudio MC15 are capable of. The Eclipse TD307PAII comes off worst in this respect – it really needs to be backed up by a decent subwoofer.

The Genelec 6010A needs a few settings tweaks to get it to sound right, but it's the Ferguson Hill FH007 that's the biggest surprise. It simply sounds fantastic – subwoofer or not. But the real audio honours go to the most expensive speakers on test. The Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4 and Dynaudio MC15 both deliver enthralling renditions of your favourite tunes. But it's the latter that are truly the standout pair here.

RESULTS	
Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4	★★★★☆
Dynaudio MC15	★★★★★
Eclipse TD301PAII	★★★☆☆
Ferguson Hill FH007	★★★★★
Genelec 6010A	★★★☆☆
Scandyna Micropod SE Active	★★★★☆

TEST SIX

Value for money

Do you get what you pay for, or a little bit more?

Given what we've just said about the Dynaudio MC15, most of us would find it very hard – no, almost impossible – to splash £736 on a pair of speakers for the Mac. In fact, you could buy a brand new MacBook or even an iMac for the same money.

So our heart says yes to the Dynaudio MC15. But what does the head say? The next most expensive system here is the Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4 PC at £560, followed by the Scandyna Micropod SE Active + Bass Ball at £500. The other three contenders – the Eclipse TD307PAII, Ferguson Hill FH007 and Genelec 6010A – are all priced around £400.

But of the six, it's the Micropod SE Active/Bass Ball combo that stands out, chiefly because you get so much for your money. The speakers alone are a snip at £200, and with the £300 Bass Ball subwoofer they add deep bass to the overall setup. Getting extra oomph from the Eclipse TD307PAII, Genelec 6010A and Ferguson Hill FH007 is possible, but you'll have to stump up more for subwoofers, with prices ranging from £275 for the Ferguson Hill FH008 to a staggering £650 for the Eclipse 316SW – making the total Eclipse combo over £310 more than the Dynaudio MC15.

RESULTS	
Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4	★★★☆☆
Dynaudio MC15	★★★☆☆
Eclipse TD301PAII	★★★☆☆
Ferguson Hill FH007	★★★★★
Genelec 6010A	★★★☆☆
Scandyna Micropod SE Active	★★★★★

The Scandyna Micropod speakers sound great but they do demand something in return – your money.

AND THE WINNER IS | FERGUSON HILL FH007

Picking a winner from these classy multimedia speakers was always going to be tricky, notwithstanding the obvious price differences on show. All of these speakers are eminently capable of great results – as individual five star reviews in *MacFormat* have already shown.

Our aim, then, is to find a speaker system that delivers the best mixture of sound quality, design, set up, ease of use, technology and value for money. And from that it becomes pretty easy to see who has scurried to the head of the pack. Making up the also-rans at the back are the Eclipse TD307PAII and Genelec 6010A – they're both fine in their own right, but don't stand out in any single area. The Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4 is next, thanks to the quality of its sound, but we also feel that it's overpriced by about £60.

Next up is the Scandyna Micropod SE Active and Bass Ball. This manages to hit the right notes in almost every respect, but when compared to the next two choices it simply isn't quite good enough.

That leaves the Dynaudio MC15 and Ferguson Hill FH007. The Dynaudio MC15 is staggeringly good – at a price – but its looks are bit a bit too lumpen for what we've come to expect from a great partner for the Mac.

That leaves the Ferguson Hill FH007 – a speaker package that's beautifully easy to set up and use, won't break the bank and delivers astonishing sound for the money. It may need a lot of room in which to sing, but when it's available, the system sings so beautifully that you won't really mind at all. Team that with its stunning transparent looks and upgrade options (you can add the FH008 subwoofer for extra deep bass for £275), and it emerges, quite literally, as the clearest winner.

FINAL VERDICT

★★★★★

"The FH007 system redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."

Mac FORMAT Winner

MULTIMEDIA SPEAKERS

Bang & Olufsen Beolab 4 PC

★★★½☆

Dynaudio MC15

★★★★½

Eclipse TD307PAII

★★★☆☆

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	£560	£736	£400
Website	www.bang-olufsen.com	www.dynaudio.com/uk	www.eclipse-td.net
Drive Units	1x 19mm soft dome tweeter / 1x 100mm woofer	1x 28mm soft dome tweeter; 1x 145mm woofer	1x 6.5cm full range drive unit
Frequency range	50Hz-20kHz	n/a	n/a
Frequency response	n/a	55Hz-21kHz	100Hz-25kHz (-10db)
Nominal Impedance (ohms)	n/a	8 ohms	8 ohms
Amplifier inputs	1x line input (Stereo mini)	1x line input (stereo mini)	1x line in (stereo); 1x line in (stereo mini)
Amplifier outputs	1x line output (mono)	none	1x line out (stereo mini)
Power Output (amp)	2x 35W	2x 50W RMS	2x 12W RMS
Power On / Off	Yes, automatic	Yes, manual	Yes, manual
Separate Volume Control	No	No	Yes
Dimensions (WxHxD)	215x197x205mm	170x260x235mm	130x195x176mm (speaker) / 159x154x137mm (amp)

MULTIMEDIA SPEAKERS

Mac FORMAT Winner

Ferguson Hill FH007

★★★★★

Genelec 6010A

★★★☆☆

Scandyna Micropod SE Active + Bass Ball

★★★★☆

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	£395	£398	£500
Website	www.fergusonhill.co.uk	www.hhb.co.uk/hhb/uk/source	www.podspeakers.com
Drive Units	2x high frequency horns, 2x bass speakers	1x 19mm metal dome tweeter / 1x 76mm woofer	1x 19mm soft dome tweeter / 1x 70mm woofer
Frequency range	n/a	n/a	n/a
Frequency response	75Hz-20kHz (+/- 5dB)	74Hz-18kHz (+/- 2.5dB)	20Hz-20kHz (+/- 1dB)
Nominal Impedance (ohms)	8 ohms	8 ohms	6 ohms
Amplifier inputs	1x line in (stereo); 1x line in (stereo mini)	1x line in (stereo mini)	1x line in (stereo mini)
Amplifier outputs	4x speaker outputs (mini), 1x subwoofer output	n/a	1x line out (stereo mini), 1x subwoofer out
Power Output (amp)	4 x 16W RMS	2x 12W RMS	2x 10W RMS
Power On / Off	Yes, manual	Yes, manual	Yes, manual
Separate Volume Control	Yes	No	Yes
Dimensions (WxHxD)	n/a	195x121x114mm (speaker) / n/a (amp)	130x160x121mm (speaker)

★★★★★ Buyers' guide

Sponsored by
techradar.com
Deep into technology

How to buy a Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? Follow our advice and make the right choice

Buying a new Mac or iPod can be a daunting task, especially if you've never bought a computer before. Do you want a desktop Mac, or would a laptop be more suitable? Do you want video-playing capabilities on your iPod, or is the iPhone the way to go? Our extensive Buyers' Guide will help you make the right decision when preparing for your new Apple purchase. Pages 112-113 are dedicated to Apple's Mac range, and the iPod line-up can be found on pages 114-115.

Making your mind up

All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it's going to be powerful. So now you need to choose between a laptop or desktop. If you work on the move then a laptop is best, but these do have small screens and fiddly keyboards. And they actually cost more than a lower-end desktop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and the new MacBook Air. The MacBook starts at £699 and is great for less intensive work, like using the *iLife* apps. The MacBook Pro, starting at £1,299, is for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. The super-thin MacBook Air is ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. There is no CD/DVD drive included, but an external SuperDrive can be bought for £65.

The MacBook Pro is available in two 15-inch configurations with either 2.4

DID YOU KNOW?

The MacBook Air's multi-touch trackpad lets you pinch, rotate and swipe, through photos in *iPhoto*

> "All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful"

MacBook Air

or 2.5GHz processors, and there's a 17-inch 2.5GHz version machine, too. And you can now upgrade the 2.5GHz Pros to 2.6GHz for an extra £160. The MacBook only comes with a 13-inch screen, as does the MacBook Air.

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £399 you get a 1.83GHz machine with a Combo Drive, or a 2.0GHz mini with a SuperDrive for £499. You will need a monitor, keyboard and mouse.

The new iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.4GHz, 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.8GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz, from £799. These all-in-ones now have the power to almost rival a Mac Pro, although for real intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end professional Mac. With a basic spec of one quad-core 2.8GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your exact requirements. Prices start from £1,429, but with the option of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune.

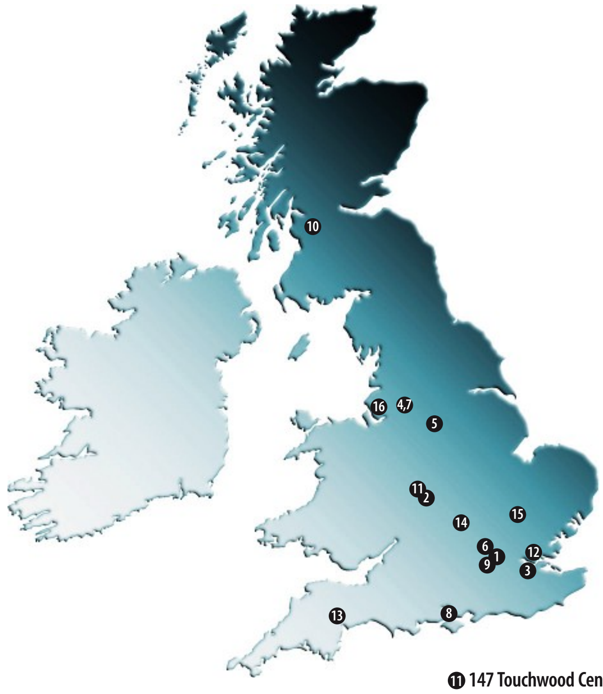
If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Display from just £399 is far and away the best choice.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the *iLife '08* software, so you can organise photos, make and store music, build websites and create movies to burn to a DVD.

DID YOU KNOW?

Apple's new iMacs feature a FireWire 800 port in addition to the FireWire 400. What more could you need?

APPLE STORES IN THE UK



① **235 Regent Street,** London, 0207 153 9000
② **Bullring Shopping Centre,** Birmingham, 0121 260 1900
③ **Bluewater Shopping Centre,** Greenhithe, Kent, 01322 640 100
④ **Trafford Centre,** Manchester, 0161 240 1000
⑤ **Meadowhall Shopping Centre,** Sheffield, 0114 212 1000
⑥ **Brent Cross,** London, 0208 359 1050
⑦ **Arndale Centre,** Manchester, 0161 216 4570
⑧ **WestQuay Shopping Centre,** Southampton, 023 8030 1050
⑨ **Bentall Centre,** Kingston Upon Thames, 0208 213 2020
⑩ **147 Buchanan Street,** Glasgow, 0141 300 4950
⑪ **147 Touchwood Centre,** Solihull, 0121 224 1300
⑫ **Lakeside Shopping Centre,** Grays, Essex, 0170 871 7500
⑬ **24 Princesshay,** Exeter, 0139 231 6600
⑭ **26 Midsummer Place,** Milton Keynes, 01908 856 650
⑮ **Grand Arcade,** Cambridge, 01223 253 600
⑯ **Unit 95, Paradise St (West),** Liverpool, 0151 472 2600

BENCHMARKS | At the speed of Mac

	Mac mini	MacBook	MacBook Air	iMac	MacBook Pro	Mac Pro
Type tested	1.83GHz Core Duo 1GB RAM	13.3-inch 2.4GHz Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM	1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM	20-inch 2.4GHz Core 2 Duo, 1GB RAM	15.4-inch 2.5GHz Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM	2x 3GHz Intel Xeon, 2GB RAM
Start up	23 secs	24 secs	58.6 secs	27 secs	34 secs	23 secs
Shut down	12 secs	6 secs	5.7 secs	7.5 secs	5.8 secs	9 secs
iTunes encoding	55 secs	58 secs	1 min, 38 secs	49 secs	55 secs	47 secs
Photoshop radial blur	2 mins, 7 secs	1 min, 40 secs	2 mins, 54 secs	1 min, 43 secs	1 min, 35 secs	49 secs
Copy a 1GB folder	46 secs	54 secs	1 min, 26 secs	28.5 secs	49 secs	38 secs
Xbench (higher is better)	67	50.08	49.68	146	108	140.45

The CPU and Quartz Graphics test results were generated using *Xbench*. The *Photoshop* test involved applying a 100% radial blur to the same JPEG image on all three MacBooks. *Cinebench* is a widely used benchmarking application based on the powerful 3D rendering software *Cinema 4D*. Both *Cinebench* and *Xbench* can be downloaded from the internet for free. You need to purchase a serial key to unlock *Cinebench's* 64-bit testing tools. Results may vary between equally specced computers depending on several factors, including wear and tear, installed software and the version of the OS installed.

Your choice of Apple gear

LET US HELP YOU MAKE THE RIGHT PURCHASE

iMac

Updated April 2008

20-inch 2.4GHz

£799

2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

1GB memory

250GB hard drive

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

ATI Radeon HD 2400 XT with 128MB memory

Built-in iSight video camera

AirPort Extreme

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote

⊕ **Great value**

⊖ **Bigger HD would be nice**

20-inch 2.66GHz

£949

2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

2GB memory

320GB hard drive

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory

Built-in iSight video camera

AirPort Extreme

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote

⊕ **2GB memory**

⊖ **Wired mouse and keyboard**

24-inch 2.8GHz

£1,149

2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

2GB memory

320GB hard drive

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory

Built-in iSight video camera

AirPort Extreme

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote

⊕ **Impressive specification**

⊖ **£34 extra to go wireless**

24-inch 3.06GHz

£1,389

3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Extreme

2GB memory

500GB hard drive

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 8800 GS with 512MB memory

Built-in iSight video camera

AirPort Extreme

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote

⊕ **Fastest ever iMac**

⊖ **Could spend loads upgrading**

MacBook Pro

Updated February 2008

15-inch 2.4GHz

£1,299

15.4-inch TFT widescreen display

2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache

2GB (two SO-DIMMs)

200GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics card with 256MB SDRAM

Built-in iSight, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0, multi-touch trackpad

OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Multi-touch trackpad**

⊖ **Screen too small for some**

15-inch 2.5GHz

£1,599

15.4-inch TFT widescreen display

2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache

2GB (two SO-DIMMs)

250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics card with 512MB SDRAM

Built-in iSight, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0, multi-touch trackpad

OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Lots of HD space**

⊖ **Upgrade options could cost**

17-inch 2.5GHz

£1,799

17-inch TFT widescreen display

2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

6MB shared L2 cache

2GB (2x SODIMMs)

250GB 5,400rpm Serial ATA

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics card with 512MB SDRAM

Built-in iSight, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0, multi-touch trackpad

OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Option to upgrade to 2.6GHz**

⊖ **Puts a big dent in the wallet**

One 2.8GHz Quad

£1,429

One 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ Great value for money
⊖ Could spend loads upgrading

Two 2.8GHz Quad

£1,749

Two 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ Great configuration options
⊖ Upgrade options tempting

Two 3GHz Quad

£2,249

Two 3.0GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ Two 3GHz Quad processors!
⊖ Too many upgrade choices?

Two 3.2GHz Quad

£2,758.99

Two 3.2GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ The fastest Mac ever
⊖ Do you really need it?

Mac Pro

Updated January 2008

Mac mini

Updated August 2007

1.83GHz 80GB

£399

1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
80GB hard drive
2MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Combo drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08*, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

⊕ Excellent value for money
⊖ Poor for 3D graphics

2.0GHz 120GB

£499

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
120GB hard drive
4MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme, Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08*, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

⊕ More hard drive space
⊖ Still not ideal for gamers

MacBook Air

Released January 2008

13-inch 1.6GHz

£1,199.01

1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB memory
80GB 4,200-rpm PATA hard drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Backlit keyboard
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor
LED display

⊕ Thintastic!
⊖ SuperDrive is an extra £65

13-inch 1.8GHz

£2,028

1.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB memory
64GB solid-state drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Backlit keyboard
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor
LED display

⊕ Looks stunning
⊖ Expensive and needs extras

13-inch white 2.1GHz

£699

13.3-inch glossy TFT display
2.1GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
1GB RAM (two SO-DIMMs)
120GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
24x Combo drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ Great value
⊖ Could use more RAM

13-inch white 2.4GHz

£829

13.3-inch glossy TFT display
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (two SO-DIMMs)
160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ More RAM and HD space
⊖ No multi-touch trackpad

13-inch black 2.4GHz

£949

13.3-inch glossy TFT display
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (two SO-DIMMs)
250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ Loads of HD space
⊖ It's pricey in black

MacBook

Updated February 2008

iPod
9:42 AM
Nelly Furtado
Loose
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find *your* ideal model

> "The best compromise is the iPod nano. The screen is too small to watch more than a music video, but it's crisp and the capacities are sufficient"

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are; there is no 'best' model. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your *iTunes* window when you're clicked on Library – you can probably get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a more generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices.

While most of us regularly listen to only a fraction of our music – something facilitated by the use of Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you do get phenomenal bang for buck. The 160GB iPod classic is 22 times cheaper per gigabtye than the entry-level 1GB iPod shuffle.

Unlike the relatively heavy, hard disk-based iPod classic, however, the screenless iPod shuffle is a great gym companion, though remember that it is expensive for what you get.

The best compromise is the iPod nano. The screen is frankly too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and detailed, and the 4GB and 8GB capacities are sufficient for many.

The iPod touch is in another league altogether. Though expensive, it is fantastically capable, and the generous screen paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface is a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can now run lots of third-party apps, too, thanks to the official software development kit that's just been launched. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone.

DID YOU KNOW?

At the cost per gigabyte of the original 5GB iPod, today's 160GB iPod classic would have a £11k price tag.

iPod
9:42 AM
Mary J. Blige
Work That
Growing Pains

iPod touch

Updated February 2008

iPod touch 8GB	iPod touch 16GB	iPod touch 32GB
£199	£269	£329
Up to 1,750 songs	Up to 3,500 songs	Up to 7,000 songs
Up to 10,000 photos	Up to 20,000 photos	Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 10 hours of video	Up to 20 hours of video	Up to 40 hours of video
Available in black	Available in black	Available in black
3.5-inch screen	3.5-inch screen	3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels	320x480 pixels	320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)	WiFi (802.11b/g)	WiFi (802.11b/g)
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)	Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)	Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)	Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)	Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm	110x61.8x8mm	110x61.8x8mm
120g	120g	120g

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU

iPod classic

Updated
September
2007

iPod classic 80GB

£159

Up to 20,000 songs

Up to 25,000 photos

Up to 100 hours of video

Available in black and silver

2.5-inch screen

320x240 pixels

Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio)

Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)

103.5x61.8x10.5mm

140g

iPod classic 160GB

£229

Up to 40,000 songs

Up to 25,000 photos

Up to 200 hours of video

Available in black and silver

2.5-inch screen

320x240 pixels

Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio)

Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)

103.5x61.8x13.5mm

162g

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU

iPod nano

Updated
September
2007

iPod nano 4GB

£99

Up to 1,000 songs

Up to 3,500 photos

Up to 4 hours of video

Available in silver

2-inch screen

320x240 pixels

Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)

Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)

69.8 x 52.3 x 6.5mm

49.2g

iPod nano 8GB

£129

Up to 2,000 songs

Up to 7,000 photos

Up to 8 hours of video

Available in silver, pink, blue, green, black and (PRODUCT) RED

2-inch screen

320x240 pixels

Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)

Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)

69.8 x 52.3 x 6.5mm

49.2g

iPod shuffle

Updated
February
2008

iPod shuffle 1GB

£32

Up to 240 songs

No ability to display photos or videos

Available in silver, blue, green, purple and (PRODUCT) RED

No screen

Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)

27.3x41.2x10.5mm

15.6g

iPod shuffle 2GB

£45

Up to 500 songs

No ability to display photos or videos

Available in silver, blue, green, purple and (PRODUCT) RED

No screen

Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)

27.3x41.2x10.5mm

15.6g

AT&T 3G
9:42 AM
SMS
Text
Tuesday
9
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
280
Maps
73°
Weather
Clock
Calculator
Notes
Settings
iTunes
App Store
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod

iPhone 3G

Updated
June
2008

iPhone 3G 8GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 1,750 songs, 10,000 photos, or 10 hours of video

Available in black

3.5-inch screen

320x480 pixels

WiFi (802.11b/g)

Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G

Assisted GPS

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)

115.5x62.1x12.3mm

133g

iPhone 3G 16GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 3,500 songs, 20,000 photos, or 20 hours of video

Available in black or white

3.5-inch screen

320x480 pixels

WiFi (802.11b/g)

Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G

Assisted GPS

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)

115.5x62.1x12.3mm

133g

iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH: HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

Of course, the iPhone is also a fantastic iPod – Steve Jobs called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. At 8GB and 16GB, it's not particularly capacious, which is annoying as the glorious 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, so identical to the iPod touch, but there are some key differences between the two.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make calls. Fair enough, you might think, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff (literally) is that while an iPhone will cost you at least £30 a month for 18 months, you only need to pay for the iPod touch itself.

You do miss out on some stuff – the touch lacks the iPhone's (admittedly pretty crappy) camera, and it doesn't have the iPhone's built-in speaker; you'll need to plug in a set of speakers or headphones if you want to listen to the touch.

The updated iPhone 3G is not only faster than the original – twice as quick in Apple's testing – but it also includes proper GPS; the iPod touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

Finally, iPod touch owners usually have to pay for software upgrades, too, something iPhones get for free.

TOP GEAR

Extend your Mac with our pick of peripherals and software

CONTENTS

116 Keyboards & mice
Printers
Displays
Scanners/All-in-ones
117 Digital cameras
Digital video cameras
Routers/networking
Storage
118 Speakers
Digital music players
iPod accessories
VoIP phones
119 Home office
Visual tools and layout
Games
Multimedia software

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Keyboard ★★★★★

ISSUE 187

Price: £29
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53747
Key specs: 2x USB 2.0 ports; slimline at 11x1x33cm; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

+ Superslim; faster USB ports; easy to keep clean; comfortable to use; sleek design
– May prefer wireless version that's also available

"The Apple keyboard is sleek, ergonomic and now has extra keys. Once you've tried this you'll never go back to your old keyboard."

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Bluetooth; Exposé/Dashboard shortcuts; thin

+ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
– Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

Microsoft Mobile Memory Mouse 8000

★★★★★

Price: £45 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF and Bluetooth

+ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB storage
– Odd acceleration behaviour

PRINTERS

Canon PIXMA iP6600D ★★★★★

ISSUE 174

Price: £87
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53946
Key specs: Thermal inkjet; A4 prints; 9,600x2,400dpi; six-ink printing; duplex printing; DVD/CD label printing; memory card readers; PictBridge socket

+ Large LCD display; twin paper sources; DVD/CD label printing; duplex printing
– Slight fuzz on black text; slow compared to non-photo printers

"The iP6600D is a versatile printer giving quality prints, with more bells and whistles than a Morris-dancing troupe of football refs."

HP Photosmart A618

★★★★★

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 183
Full review: www.techradar.com/58073
Key specs: 3-colour inkjet; 4,800x1,200dpi

+ Good price; great prints; built-in bluetooth
– Bit slow

Canon PIXMA iP100

★★★★★

Price: £160 **Reviewed:** Issue 199
Full review: www.techradar.com/414281
Key specs: 9,600x2,400dpi; USB 2.0; Bluetooth

+ Compact; excellent results; strong build
– Lack of camera card slots

DISPLAYS

Apple 23-inch Cinema Display ★★★★★

ISSUE 152

Price: £599
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225702
Key specs: Size: 23-inch (viewable), Native resolution: 1,920x1,200, Colours: 16.7million colours, Video: DVI display, USB ports: 2, FireWire 400 ports: 2, VESA mount compatible

+ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
– No height adjustment

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with this 23-inch Cinema Display. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are all top-notch."

Eizo FlexScan S2110W

★★★★★

Price: £505 **Reviewed:** Issue 182
Full review: www.techradar.com/48701
Key specs: 1,680x1,050 res; 2x digital DVI, USB2.0

+ Smart features; brilliant picture; easy to use
– Expensive

Sharp Aquos LC32X20E

★★★★★

Price: £698 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res

+ Great Mac and TV picture quality; impressive specs
– Need a lot of room to house it!

SCANNERS/ALL-IN-ONES

Canon CanoScan 8600F ★★★★★

ISSUE 186

Price: £149
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225903
Key specs: Charge Coupled Device; A4 max print size; document/film scanner; FARE level 3 scratch removal, 7x EZ buttons; Adobe *Photoshop Elements 4; LaserFast SE; ScanGear CS*

+ Excellent software bundle; produces speedy scans; good quality results
– Quite bulky

"It's fast, versatile, not too expensive and comes with a very impressive bundle of software. This is the best scanner by far."

Canon PIXMA MP610

★★★★★

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Full review: www.techradar.com/203068
Key specs: Printer/scanner/copier; 2,400x9,600dpi

+ Lots of features; easy to use; cheap to run
– Slow duplex printing

Canon PIXMA MX700

★★★★½

Price: £131 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR

+ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
– No duplex

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd ★★★★★

ISSUE 197

Price: £138
Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/71926
Key specs: 12 megapixels; 35-1-5mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation; 25MB internal memory; 100-6,400 ISO range

⊕ Great value for money; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
⊖ Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This camera is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The Fujifilm FinePix F50fd is £138 well spent."

Canon EOS 40D

★★★★★

Price: £799 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/69985
Key specs: 10.1MP; Digic III and 14-bit processing

⊕ Lots of megapixels; wider ISO range; useful extras
⊖ Some idiosyncratic functions

Pentax Optio M50

★★★★½

Price: £132 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/414376
Key specs: 8MP; 5x optical/5.2x digital zoom

⊕ Easy to use; great picture quality; good price
⊖ Slow lens; not great in low-light conditions

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

JVC GR-DF470EK ★★★★★

ISSUE 176

Price: £264
Web: www.jvc.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/72721
Key specs: 15x optical zoom, 700x digital zoom; 2.5-inch LCD; 2.6-39mm focal length; MiniDV media – 8MB card supplied; mic socket; remote; 400g; 75x111x74mm

⊕ Solid build; great value for money; lots of features
⊖ May need to keep manual at hand

"It's packed with features and built to last. The JVC GR-DF470EK is a quality camera at a staggeringly affordable price."

Canon MVX460

★★★★½

Price: £325 **Reviewed:** Issue 176
Full review: www.techradar.com/74243
Key specs: 20x optical zoom; MiniDV format

⊕ Stunning sound; simple controls; attractive
⊖ Expensive; no media supplied

Canon HG10

★★★★½

Price: £670 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/216960
Key specs: HD format; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom

⊕ Superb images; native support for *iMovie '08*
⊖ Some ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

Apple AirPort Extreme Base Station

★★★★★

ISSUE 181

Price: £119
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/31026
Key specs: 165x165x34mm; 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP (40/128-bit), WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

⊕ Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
⊖ UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables easy Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network setup in minutes."

Linksys Wireless-N Gateway WAG325N

★★★★★

Price: £90 **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/31179
Key specs: ADSL 2+ support; 802.11g/802.11b

⊕ Great spec; easy to set up; good transfer rates
⊖ Not the best looking device

Apple AirPort Express

★★★★★

Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311070
Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2

⊕ Easy to set up; AirTunes is great; supports Windows
⊖ Still need to add a broadband router

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax ★★★★★

ISSUE 182

Price: £158
Web: www.iomega-europe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226173
Key specs: 500GB capacity; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) and 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) data transfer speeds; *Dantz Retrospect* backup software; FireWire 400 cable

⊕ Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; perfect Mac mini shape; very fast
⊖ Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini is now available with substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."

Western Digital My Book Pro

★★★★★

Price: £140 **Reviewed:** Issue 173
Full review: www.techradar.com/47284
Key specs: 500GB capacity; FireWire 400/800/USB 2.0

⊕ Slim build; lightweight; elegant; brushed metal
⊖ Too delicate for some people's tastes

Buffalo 500GB DriveStation Combo 4

★★★★☆

Price: £120 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/380224
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0; 2x FireWire 800; 1x FireWire 400

⊕ Lots of connection options; cheap; small footprint
⊖ Can get hot; no LED indicator

HOW TO BUY...

iPhone speakers

1 WHY?
To amplify your songs by attaching the iPhone to speakers and even video equipment if it has the right connections.

2 WHAT?
You need to get equipment that has GSM shielding. Speakers that don't have this will pick up network chatter and interference through the speakers, which is very annoying.

3 WHERE?
You can buy speakers for the home, and FM transmitters with shields for your car have just appeared, too.

4 WHO?
At the moment there are not many brands that make GSM shielded speakers with Universal Docks for iPods and iPhones, but that is about to change. Altec Lansing, iHome, FatMan, JBL and Logitech have all brought out models recently, and our spies tell us that many more are in the pipeline. Check www.apple.com/uk for current iPhone speakers.

5 HOW MUCH?
For a shielded clock radio expect to pay £70, for a decent shielded speaker system expect to pay anything from £100 upwards depending on its specs.

Editor's choice

Where Graham's cash is heading…

Canon EOS 1000D

Price £578 (street price £449) with EF-S 18-55mm IS
Manufacturer Canon
Web www.canon.co.uk

I've been debating making the switch to a Digital SLR for a while now, and I think the new canon EOS 1000D has done just enough to tip the balance. My compact digital camera (also a Canon, incidentally) has served me well over the years, but DSLR seems to be the way to go these days. As a first-time DSLR user I don't want to be thrown in at the deep end, so the EOS 1000D will suit me perfectly. Features like image stabilisation and Live View, for composing images on the 2.5-inch LCD screen instead of through the viewfinder, will be essential to me.

While serious photography professionals might find a few things to quibble about with the picture quality, I've seen the sort of images Chris produced with the camera (see his review on page 93) and I'm impressed. It's exactly what I'm looking for.

The price is good, too, so it looks like I'm about to step into the world of grown-up photography. Just don't hold your breath waiting for me to be the next David Bailey!

"A great DSLR for those wanting to step up from a compact digital camera."

SPEAKERS

Fujitsu Ten Eclipse TD307PAII ★★★★★

ISSUE 186

Price: £400
Web: www.fujitsu-ten.co.jp
Full review: www.techradar.com/226352
Key specs: 15W max output; 10-100kHz frequency; 85dB signal/noise ratio; amp (15.9x13.7x15.4cm); 2x speakers (19x17.6x13cm)

⊕ Superb sound; fantastic design; easy positioning
⊖ No remote

"A great addition and complement to any Mac desktop with phenomenal sound and a fantastic design."

Acoustic Energy Aego-M

★★★★★

Price: £130 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/100419
Key specs: Twin satellites and sub-bass; 90 RMS output

⊕ Look great; easy to use and set up; superb sound
⊖ Not many extra features

XtremeMac Luna1

★★★★★

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/226474
Key specs: iPod speaker; AM/FM radio; 3.5mm jack

⊕ Well built; good sound; excellent remote; dim LCD
⊖ Expensive for what it is

iPOD ACCESSORIES

Gear4 BluEye ★★★★★

ISSUE 178

Price: £50
Web: www.gear4.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/226518
Key specs: For fourth- and fifth-gen iPods, iPod mini and iPod nano

⊕ Answer calls by remote; great sound quality; voice-activated dialling
⊖ Nothing at all

"Quite possibly the best iPod accessory we've ever seen. It really is that good and deserves the accolade. Buy one now!"

iSkin Cerulean TX+RX

★★★★★

Price: £92 **Reviewed:** Issue 193
Full review: www.techradar.com/224088
Key specs: 10m range; easy USB connection

⊕ Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
⊖ High price

Macally TunePro Flat Panel

★★★★★

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218943
Key specs: 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg

⊕ Great sound; good build; easy-to-slap snooze button
⊖ Remote sold separately

DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYERS

Apple iPod nano ★★★★★

ISSUE 188

Price: £99/£129
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/226601
Key specs: 4GB (silver only); 8GB (silver, blue, green, black, PRODUCT (RED)); 2-inch colour display; battery can provide up to 24hrs music playback or 5hrs video

⊕ Amazing screen resolution; small and light; new menus and Cover Flow
⊖ Small screen for video; stubby design; 8GB maximum capacity

"Apple has once again raised the bar with the new iPod nano, and the competition will struggle to keep up. Just needs more storage."

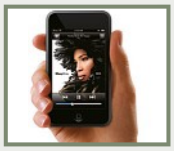
Apple iPod classic

★★★★½

Price: £159/£229 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/226641
Key specs: 80GB/160GB; black or silver; video playback

⊕ Phenomenal value; redesigned interface; good audio
⊖ Must re-buy purchased games

Apple iPod touch 32GB



★★★★★

Price: £329 **Reviewed:** Issue 193
Full review: www.techradar.com/221658
Key specs: 8GB &16GB also available; WiFi browsing

⊕ Great touchscreen; decent memory size; new apps
⊖ Not cheap!

VOIP PHONES

RTX DualPhone 3088 DECT ★★★★★

ISSUE 180

Price: £99
Web: www.skypestyle.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226730
Key specs: Cordless phone; Skype keys (make call, hang up, hold call, mute); SkypeOut support; two function buttons, plus a button ring for menu options; nine-line colour LCD; can be used without Mac

⊕ Cordless; for landline and Skype calls; looks good
⊖ Sound quality could be better

"The wireless RTX DualPhone DECT has all the bases covered. It provides the advantages of roaming around and handles all calls."

Cyberphone-W Mac

★★★★½

Price: £31 **Reviewed:** Issue 180
Full review: www.techradar.com/226787
Key specs: Corded phone; Mac software; stand

⊕ Good sound; great software; easy to set up
⊖ Cord can get in the way

Belkin WiFi Phone for Skype

★★★★☆

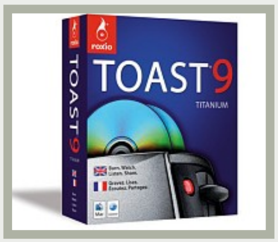
Price: £120 **Reviewed:** Issue 180
Full review: www.techradar.com/93730
Key specs: Cordless phone; colour LCD; no Mac needed

⊕ Good range; no setting up required
⊖ Sound can suffer from distortion

HOME OFFICE

Roxio Toast 9 Titanium ★★★★★

ISSUE 195



Price: £70
Web: www.roxio.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/311459
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4 or Mac OS X 10.5; 600MB hard disk space; 15GB temporary free disk space during usage; CD, DVD or Blu-ray recordable drive; *QuickTime 7* or higher

+ Superb bundle; HD video burning (with plug-in); bundled backup app
– Expensive upgrade

"Toast 9 Titanium is a great suite and still the burning king, but think carefully before buying the relatively expensive upgrade."

Scrivener 1.0

★★★★★

Price: $35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/33080
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4

+ Reliable; great for writers; top export options
– Nothing

FileMaker Bento

★★★★★

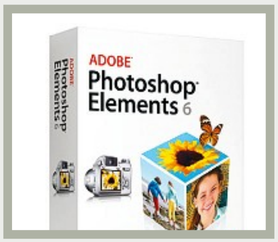
Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218102
System reqs: 867MHz G4; Mac OS X 10.5; 512MB RAM

+ Simple to use; integrates with *Address Book* and *iCal*
– No Apple *Mail* integration

VISUAL TOOLS AND LAYOUT

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 ★★★★★

ISSUE 194



Price: £58
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: PowerPC G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); 64MB video RAM, 1GB available hard disk space; a DVD drive

+ Nice new interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves is a move forward
– Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey is hard to see; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."

Lemke Software GraphicConverter 6.0

★★★★★

Price: $35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 187
Full review: www.techradar.com/226888
Sys reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.4

+ Opens anything; great batch processing; rich features
– Could do with a visual facelift

Softpress Freeway Pro 5

★★★★★

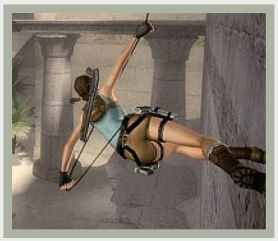
Price: £123 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311508
Sys reqs: Mac OS X10.4.11+

+ Improved performance; great new Actions
– Single undos; lacklustre Graphics Actions

GAMES

Tomb Raider Anniversary ★★★★★

ISSUE 193



Price: £35
Web: www.feralinteractive.com
System reqs: Intel Mac 1.8GHz; 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.1; 4GB hard drive space; 128GB VRAM

+ Looks great; controls are excellent; Lara moves beautifully; puzzling is rewarding
– Some camera problems persist

"There are still a few camera issues but this is a satisfying return to form for the series. It's considerably better than the original."

Enemy Territory: Quake Wars

★★★★★

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Web: www.aspyr.com
System reqs: Intel Core 2 Duo; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.5.1

+ Objective-based gameplay; meaty weapons
– Looks bland in places

Neverwinter Nights 2

★★★★★

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Web: www.atari.com/nwn2
System reqs: Intel 2GHz, 1GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11

+ Vast single-player campaign; great depth; intriguing
– Crap camera

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

ISSUE 189

Price: £319
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 with 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 resolution screen; *QuickTime 7.2* or later; 7GB HD space; DVD drive

+ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive new interface
– Old users may baulk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is an amazingly comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."

Plasq Doozla 1.1

★★★★★

Price: $25 (£13) **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Full review: www.techradar.com/354362
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.6+

+ Great layout; lots of fun for kids and adults; stable;
– Nothing at all

BeLight Software Disc Cover 2

★★★★★

Price: $35 (£18) **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311267
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4+; 100MB disk space

+ Impressive templates; intuitive; easy to use; cheap
– Can feel slow at times

Review your options

Keep up to date with the newest Mac products

MacFormat is the indispensable guide for choosing Apple kit. By subscribing, not only will you never miss an issue of your favourite Mac magazine, but you can save up to 36% per year and receive *Image tricks Pro* for free! Turn to page 60, visit the website below or phone and quote p065.

To subscribe call 0844 848 2852 or subscribe online at www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/p065

Special 200th issue!
Mac
FORMAT
ISSUE 200 October 2008
MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS
83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE
Everything an Apple owner needs
Be more organised!
How to find your files in a flash!
Fine-tune RAW files
Improve your skills in Photoshop
New reviews this issue
• QuarkXPress 8 • Mellel 2.5
• Slingbox PRO • EOS 1000D
• New iPhone apps & more!
REVIEWED
REVEALED
Speakers on test
Six desktop sound systems
Windows on Mac
Free virtualisation solution!

Next issue on sale
Wed 15 October 2008

Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you!

[1] Aberdeen MUG
Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bath & Bristol MUG
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[10] East Midlands MUG
Nottingham
paulgraham007@yahoo.co.uk
www.emmug.co.uk

[11] Edinburgh MUG
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[12] Exeter Mac User Group
Exeter
examug@mac.com
www.examug.org.uk

[13] FAMUS (Fife)
Kirkcaldy
davidwlaw@btinternet.com
www.fifedirect.org.uk

[14] Glasgow MUG
Glasgow
glas.mug@mac.com
www.glasmug.com

[15] Kent & East Sussex MUG
Kent
www.kesmug.org

[16] London MUG
London
secretary@lmug.org
www.lmug.org.uk

[17] MACUS (Manchester)
Manchester
davjaeger@macunlimited.net

[18] Manchester MUG
Manchester
simon.richards@manmug.co.uk

[19] Midlands MUG
Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
www.mmug.org.uk

[20] Naseby Mac User Group
Naseby
stuart.cato@mac.com

[21] Northern Ireland MUG
Belfast
matt@nimug.org

[22] North West Mac Group
Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
www.nwmug.co.uk

[23] Norwich MUG
Norwich
norwichmacusergroup@mac.com

[24] Oban Mac User Group
Oban
obanmug@mac.com

[25] OxMUG
Oxford
www.oxmug.org

[26] PembsMUG
Pembrokeshire
info@pembsmug.org
www.pembsmug.org

[27] Potteries MUG
potmug@mac.com
www.potmug.com

[28] Severn MUG
South West
admin@s-mug.com
http://s-mug.com

[29] Sneem MUG
Sneem
sean@smug.ie
www.smug.ie

[30] South Essex MUG
Wickford, Essex
chairman@seal-apple.co.uk
www.seal-apple.co.uk

[31] South Wales MUG
Cardiff
swmug@applewiz.biz
www.swmug.org.uk

[32] Stroud Mac User Group
Stroud
jmuy@aol.com

[33] Suffolk Mac User Group
Ipswich
mike@mikekwasniak.co.uk
www.suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk

[34] Surrey MUG
Surrey
monigmagr@mac.com

[35] Swindon MUG
Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@googlemail.com
http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

[36] Three Counties MUG
Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

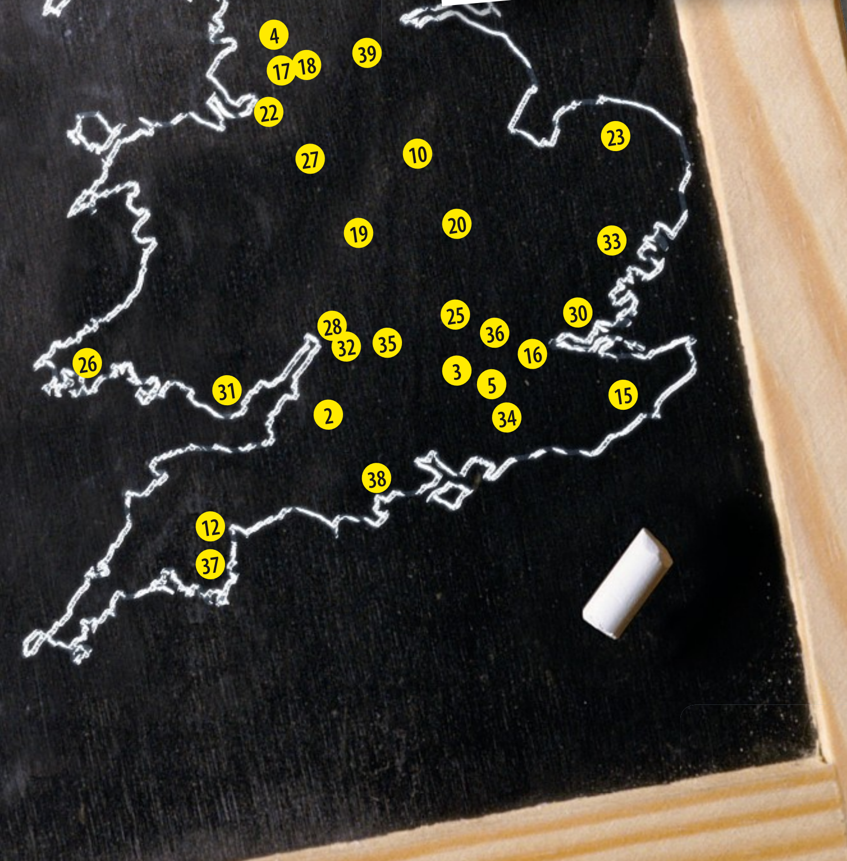
[37] Totnes MUG
Totnes, Devon
m.kendall@can-online.org.uk

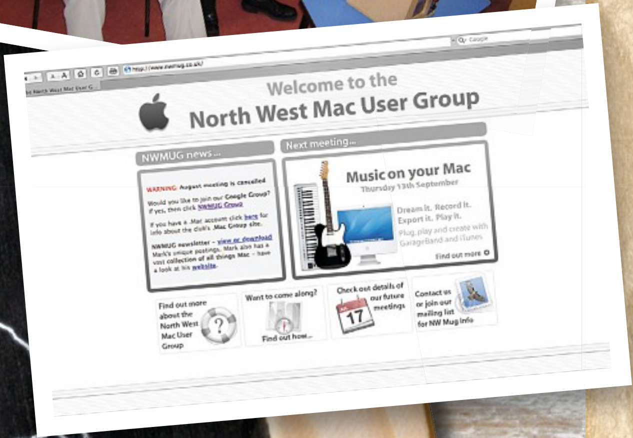
[38] Wessex MUGs
Horndean, Poole & Dorchester
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[39] Yorkshire MUG
Doncaster & other towns
oldgit@dircon.co.uk
www.ymug.org

ARE WE MISSING YOUR MUG?
Email in and let us know!
macformat@futurenet.co.uk

24
21
6
7
29
ADMIT ONE





Welcome to the North West Mac User Group

NWMUG news...

WARNING: August meeting is cancelled

Would you like to join our Google Group? If yes, then click NWMUG Group

If you have a .Mac account click here for info about the club's .Mac Group site.

NWMUG newsletter – view or download Mark's unique postings. Mark also has a vast collection of all things Mac – have a look at his website.

Next meeting...

Music on your Mac
Thursday 13th September

Dream it. Record it. Export it. Play it.

Plug, play and create with GarageBand and iTunes

Find out more

Find out more about the North West Mac User Group

Want to come along? Find out how...

Check out details of our future meetings

Contact us or join our mailing list for NW Mug info

MUG OF THE MONTH

North West MUG

On the second Thursday of each month, the North West Mac User Group meets at Grappenhall Community Centre, near Lymm and Warrington. Meetings regularly start at around 8.00pm and finish around 10.30pm. "All are invited to come along and enjoy a friendly welcome, in the homely atmosphere of this community club," the North West Mac User Group's impressive, well appointed website assures us.

Meetings follow a common pattern. Every month the North West MUG has a presentation by one of its club members, often covering a wide range of subjects: a software package, OS X, the internet, adjusting computer hardware, the latest Apple product... It could be anything! At a recent meeting in August there was a series of six-minute talks given by different club members. Also, if you have a problem with your computer, or would like advice on what software to buy, they're happy for you to come along and talk to one of their experts.

There's no fee to pay the first time you visit, but if you enjoy the meeting and would like to come again then you only need pay £10 for a year's membership. The fee is just there to help pay for the room.

You can find out more details about them at **www.nwmug.co.uk**.

What is a User Group?

Come along and meet fellow Mac enthusiasts!

Mac User Groups are social clubs for Mac users. They offer an opportunity for Apple fans to meet each other and share their hobby. Activities vary from group to group, but typically they provide technical help, product demonstrations and the occasional guest talks from knowledgeable outsiders. **To find out more about User Groups in your area, visit www.macusersuk.org**

NEW STARTER

Starting your own MUG?

If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we will print the details here. Email us at macformat@futurenet.co.uk.

Apple Sales & Support

In a town near you...

If you need somewhere to purchase or repair your Apple Products then you can find your local dealers here...

For advertising opportunities in this section call Andrew Tilbury on (01225) 442244

KEY TO THE REGIONS:

🟦 Scotland 🟦 The North
🟪 Midlands 🟨 Wales 🟪 The East
🟥 London 🟩 South West 🟩 Eire

LONDON

Albion

112 Strand, London, WC2R 0AG
Tel: 020 7212 9090 **Fax:** 020 7212 9091 **URL** http://www.albion.co.uk

• New store on the Strand WC2 • Open 6 days • Apple Authorised service provider with a range of services • Apple Premium Reseller & Internet Solutions Specialist

LONDON

PCM Technologies Limited

45 Borthwick Road, Stratford, London E15 1UE
Tel: 020 8519 4497 **Fax:** 020 8519 1429
Email: sales@pcmtec.co.uk

Covering London, South-East & Midlands, PCM offers a personal service covering a broad spectrum of Macintosh and cross-platform support areas, including remote desktop support and exchange server integration.

LONDON

Rapid Group Plc

London, Fleet and Bournemouth
Tel: 0845 330 1600 **Email:** sales@rapidgroup.net
URL: http://www.rapidgroup.net

Rapid Group are an Authorised Apple Solutions Expert. We have two Apple service centres, one near London Bridge and the second in our head office in Fleet, Hampshire. We offer Active Directory Integration, Server & Storage Consultancy & Installation, Phone & VPN Support, Application Support, Hardware call out Support & Mobile Device Integration and much more.

LONDON

Square Group Ltd

78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1HB
Tel: 020 7692 6810 **Fax:** 020 7692 6636
Email: sales@squaregroup.co.uk

• Consultancy • Installation • Maintenance and after-sales support • Authorised repair centre • File Transfer Specialists • Training • Flexible Finance Terms • Buy online at www.squaregroup.co.uk

LONDON

SupportPlan plc

Park Place, Lawn Lane, London SW8 1UD
Tel: 0800 027 2292 **Email:** info@supportplan.com
URL: http://www.supportplan.com

Have specialised in supporting Mac's and PC's in creative environments since 1991 – based in central London.

Supporting People. And Systems.

EAST

Rapid Group Plc

London, Fleet and Bournemouth
Tel: 0845 330 1600 **Email:** sales@rapidgroup.net
URL: http://www.rapidgroup.net

Rapid Group are an Authorised Apple Solutions Expert. We have two Apple service centres, one near London Bridge and the second in our head office in Fleet, Hampshire. We offer Active Directory Integration, Server & Storage Consultancy & Installation, Phone & VPN Support, Application Support, Hardware call out Support & Mobile Device Integration and much more.

NATIONWIDE

Cancom

Brighton, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Guildford, Kensington
Tel: 0845 6863500 **Email:** emma@cancomuk.com
URL: http://www.cancomuk.com

• Europe's largest Apple Reseller • Apple Solutions Expert in Education • Authorised Apple Service Provider • Consultancy and Support • Knowledgeable B2B/Mail order team • Configure your Mac on our advanced website • Competitive pricing • Stores in Brighton, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Guildford and Kensington.

THE NORTH

Jennings Computer Services

Scarborough and York
Tel: 01723 374196 **Fax:** 01904 690470 **URL:** http://www.jcsltd.co.uk

Celebrating 25 years in business • Authorised Resellers and Service Providers • Offering a complete, professional service to commercial and personal users alike • Cross-platform systems / support • Networking / ADSL Webhosting

THE NORTH

KRCS Group

Hull, Leeds

Hull Store 01482 229 910 • 62 Carr Lane,
Leeds Store 0113 245 4245 • 89 Merrion Street

Head Office 0115 985 1797 • Lenton Lane, Nottingham

Friendly and knowledgeable staff • Full range of iPods and Macs • Massive selection of iPod accessories • Easy to find High Street locations • Buy online 24/7 - www.krcs.co.uk

Premium Reseller

EIRE

Mactivate Ltd

Unit 13, Northwest Centre, Northwest Business Park,
Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Tel: 353 1 8224488 **Fax:** 353 1 8224490
Email: info@mactivate.ie **URL:** http://www.mactivate.ie

Apple Authorised Service Provider • Apple Authorised Reseller • Nationwide Coverage • Over 15 years supporting Apple customers, we are Irelands longest established Apple Service Provider.

THE SOUTH WEST

Farpoint

The Old Red House Bakery, 90c Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BG
Tel: 01225 460678
Email: info@farpoint.org.uk **URL:** http://www.farpoint.org.uk

Premium Reseller

THE SOUTH WEST

Western Computer

Cheltenham, Bristol and Swindon
Cheltenham Store 01242 234700 • Beechwood Shopping Centre • cheltenham@western.co.uk, **Bristol Store** 0117 922 5661 • Temple Meads • bristol@western.co.uk, **Swindon Store** 01793 531444 • Brunel Centre • swindon@western.co.uk

All stores are authorised repair centres. Our Bristol centre is also an Education Solution Provider and Authorised Training Centre.

> "Do you know where your local Apple reseller store is? You should. What's more, I think you should make all your Apple purchases from them."

Graham Barlow - Editor Macformat, April 08

PRINT AND MEDIA SERVICES

1000 CDs with Booklet+Inlay c.£600
High Quality CDR copies from 51p
5000 Litho printed CDs c.£750
CD/CD-ROM Mastering £70ph
DVDs and Enhanced CDs

Over 21 years experience
Graphic design, colour print
Large and small run specialists
Excellent quality and presentation

Excellent!

RPM
Repeat Performance Multimedia
6 Grand Union Centre
West Row
London W10 5AS
Tel. 020 8960 7222
www.repeat-performance.co.uk

MacBarcoda Version 4.2 Just Released!

- high quality barcode creator
- all the popular barcode types
- saves EPS, PDF, TIFF or JPEG
- Fully compatible with Leopard

www.computalabel.com
sales@computalabel.com

MBC4

Visit www.computalabel.com to buy the software, upgrade from a previous version or buy individual barcode files for as little as £4.25 each!

Computalabel international

PO Box 8867, Leicester LE21 3DA Tel: 0116 270 0881 Fax: 0116 270 4427

CVS INTERNATIONAL

VIDEO, DVD & CD DUPLICATION
Duplicate from any master in any quantity
PAL, NTSC & SECAM standards conversion
Wide variety of packaging available

DVD AUTHORING & ENCODING
Encoding to MPEG2 from any video format
Personalised menus and chapter points
Archive your home movies onto DVD

NON-LINEAR EDITING
Realtime digital NLE suites for hire
Very competitive hourly rates
3D graphics and effects

RELIABLE, EFFICIENT & PROFESSIONAL WITH EXTREMELY COMPETITIVE PRICES

0845 100 2629

www.cvsinternational.co.uk
BRANCHES IN LONDON, ESSEX, KENT & SUFFOLK
Head Office: 20 Tallon Road, Hutton Industrial Estate, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 1TJ

MY WORLD
EXCLUSIVE:
MAGAZINES AND
YOUR ENVIRONMENT.

Recycle your magazine and seven days later it could come back as your newspaper.

www.recyclenow.com

recycle
The possibilities are endless.

PARTS AND REPAIRS

Apple Macintosh Parts & Repairs

1000's of parts
always in stock
shipped next day

VIS

Logic Boards
PSU, LCD's
Batteries

We specialise in iMac and PowerBook repairs

www.visparts.com

01189 88 66 33

New in stock, iPhone back up batteries

SPARES, REPAIRS AND SUPPORT

Spares & Repairs

MacBook • MacBook Pro • PowerBook • iBook • iMac

- Repair service with nationwide collection
- Faulty Macs bought, collected & recycled
- New & used spare parts for trade or DIY
- Web store with next day delivery

Superdrives • Logic Boards • LCDs
Hard Disks • UK Keyboards • Tools
Chargers • Batteries • DC boards
Case Screws • Cases • Key Caps
Internal Cables • Fans • Memory
Modems • Drive cables • Inverters

PARTS NOW IN STOCK

main dealer for ... newertech

online parts store
£££ for dead macs
recycling macs
repair service

thebookyard.com
0151 291 6240
info@thebookyard.com

refuelled.com
WHERE DESIGNERS COME TO FILL UP

- Fast Service
- Massive Range
- Great Prices

Design Software
Hardware & Peripherals
Wacom Graphic Tablets
Built NY Laptop Sleeves
Input Devices
Colour Management Tools
Crumpler Bags & Cases
CAD Software
Monitors & Graphics Cards
Pantone Colour Books
Apple Accessories
Professional Art Materials

www.refuelled.com

WACOM | CRUMPLER | BUILT NY | APPLE | FORMAC | PANTONE
COLORVISION | NEC | ATI | ADOBE | 3DCONNEXION

Mac FORMAT

Circulation is up 20% year on year to 23,550!

Source: ABC Jan to Dec 2007

iCare Affordable Aftercare

iCare. The national 'local' Mac Support Service

£99 inc vat

w: www.icaremacsupport.co.uk
t: 0870 908 0870
£99 is the cost of an annual insurance policy for one machine & makes provision for multiple call outs at no additional cost.

In association with
www.deliver2mac.com
Digital Downloads

Games

Andy Dyer meets Harry Potter, walks the plank and challenges the warlords!

SNIPPETS

Seeing is believing

The launch of Blizzard's *WOW: Wrath of the Lich King* expansion at the end of September will bring with it a new Achievements system that will, among other things, give players a visual indication of how they're getting on. Unlike other Achievements systems, *WotLK* will provide progress bars so that players will be able see how close they are to achieving their aims. The system will also retroactively incorporate achievements from previous expansions. See **www.worldofwarcraft.com/wrath.**

Flight Club

Quirky games developer Gabob has released *Now Boarding*, a basic, but entertaining and beautiful-looking management game in which the player has to allocate passengers to aircraft then specify a flight path that will get them to their destinations. Earn cash and you can make improvements to the terminal and expand the business. Incidentally, next time you're checking in for a real flight and you get asked "Window seat or aisle?", try responding "Or you'll what?" in a threatening manner. Play it at **www.nowboarding.us.**

ACTION ADVENTURE

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

OUT... SOON

The sixth, yes *sixth* Potter instalment

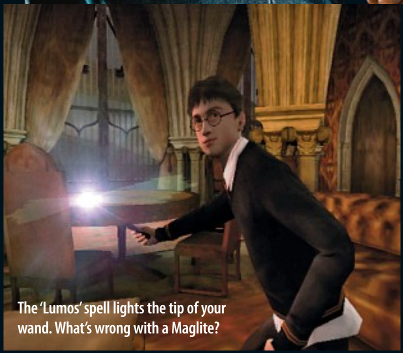
Dumbledore's socks! Have we still not yet reached the end of this bloated series of stories? Don't get us wrong, the world of Harry Potter is an enchanting one, but if we're all honest with ourselves the tale of Harry Potter could have been wrapped up a lot quicker: a single fat novel, a well-directed 120 minute movie to stick bums on seats over the Christmas 1997 season, and a shoddily assembled game tie-in would have done the job. And the story would have been all the better for it. Instead we're compelled to endure the annual Potter circus that has since ensued, and worse, we're asked to believe that what was once a single, and admittedly lovely, kids' book was always intended to be an epic seven-part series.

> "How this constitutes a milestone for the movie tie-in genre is known only to EA's PR people"

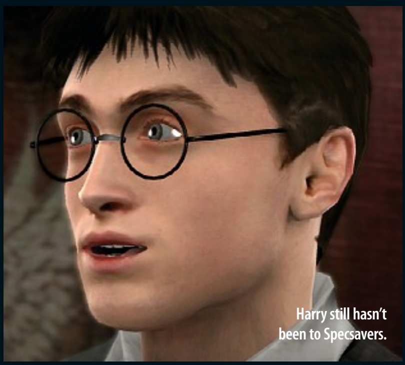
At least the sixth Potter story was, in print, one of the better ones and as such is perhaps something to look forward to. Thanks to EA's new, if somewhat erratic, commitment to Mac gaming Harry Potter will be getting cidered up in time to hit Macs this Christmas.

If you haven't read the sixth book, where have you been? The seventh one is already out and finishes with Potter and Voldemort settling their differences, falling in love and tying the knot in a civil ceremony (not all of that last sentence is true). Never mind. The videogame of *The Half-Blood Prince* promises to be – according to EA itself, so don't place much weight on these claims – a milestone in the movie tie-in genre.

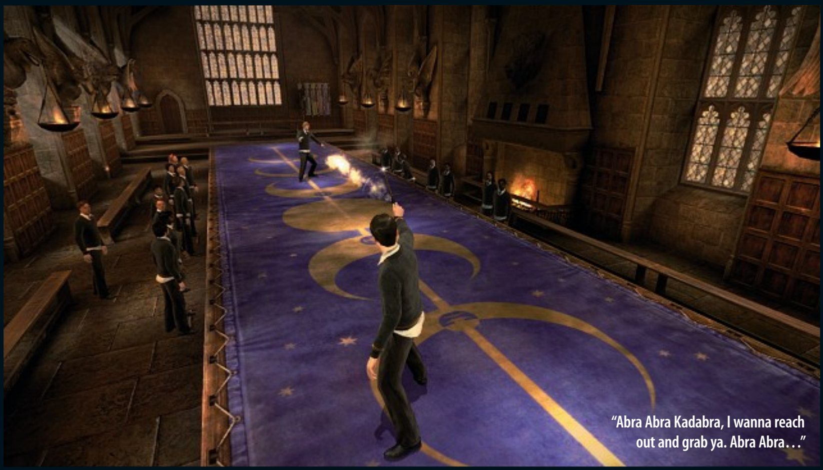
As in the previous games, players will return to Hogwarts, do a spot of exploration, take part in wizard duels, mix magical potions in class and, yes, play nonsensical sport Quidditch. How this constitutes a milestone for the genre is known only to EA's PR people but there you go. And to be fair, the more recent Harry Potter games have verged on being quite good, so we'll keep at least one eye out for further developments. ●



The 'Lumos' spell lights the tip of your wand. What's wrong with a Maglite?



Harry still hasn't been to Specsavers.



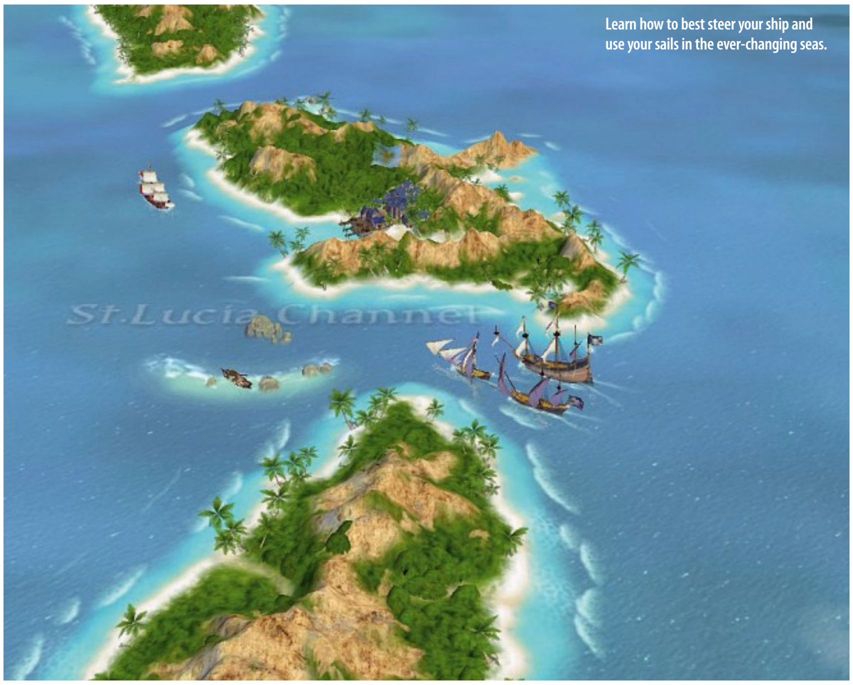
"Abra Abra Kadabra, I wanna reach out and grab ya. Abra Abra…"

STRATEGY RPG

Sid Meier's Pirates!

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£20 Head for the new world in a swashbuckling tale of pirateering and revenge



Learn how to best steer your ship and use your sails in the ever-changing seas.

CONTACT INFO

Developer 2K Games
www.2kgames.com
Vendor Feral Interactive
www.feralinteractive.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

PowerPC or Intel, 1.6GHz or faster, 512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4 or later, 64MB graphics, 1.4GB hard drive space, DVD drive

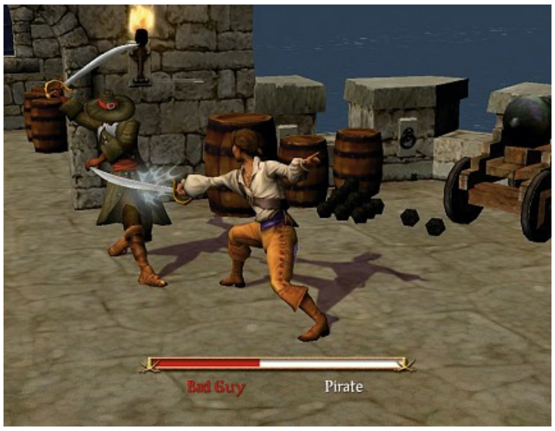
FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Atmospheric looks
- ⊕ Loads of set-up options
- ⊕ Sea battling
- ⊕ Duelling
- ⊕ Plundering
- ⊕ Roistering

VERDICT

★★★★★

"We all know pirates were naughty, but what a life. And you get to experience every facet of that life in this brilliant game."



Expect to engage in a lot of swordplay – on land as well as at sea.

To the older generation of Mac users, Sid Meier will be not only a familiar name, but the subject of not inconsiderable reverence. After all, it is he who has created some of the most iconic videogame simulations ever to appear on screen, not only on Apple machines but also on hardware created by Commodore, Atari, Amstrad, Sony, Nintendo… you name it, Sid's had one of his games running on it.

One of his early successes was *Pirates!*, a game that appeared on the Commodore 64 in 1987 and later migrated to Apple II computers. It was well received thanks to an engrossing blend of strategy, action and open-ended gameplay as the players took on the role of a privateer and proceeded to conduct their affairs in whatever manner they chose.

Ooh-aah me hearties

Remade for the PC in 2004 and later ported to the Xbox and PSP, *Sid Meier's Pirates!* is now available on OS X. This latest version is pretty much a modern remake of the original, retaining many of the elements that were so popular in the first game, while also adding a whole lot more meat to the bones.

Here we have a classic tale of revenge. A family is awaiting a fleet of cargo ships that will enable them to pay off their debts, but disaster strikes when the Marquis de Montalban arrives to tell them the fleet has been lost. He kidnaps the family and enslaves them in the New World in order to work off their debts. One young chap – you – escapes capture and ten years later, now transformed into a dashing young adventurer, decides to seek a passage to the Americas to find his fortune and avenge his family's ill-treatment.

> **"The gameplay is a joy and much of the action is accessible and easily understood from the off"**

Pirates! is a pretty comprehensive simulation of a privateer's lifestyle. This being an open-ended game you can live your life as you see fit. You can trade peacefully, go down the pirate route attacking everyone, engaging in sword fights and plundering, and you can even style yourself as a sort of adventurous lothario and try to tap off with the governor's daughter. The game only really ends when you get too old to carry on and seek retirement.

The gameplay is a joy and while it's useful to have the manual close at hand, much of the action is accessible and easily understood from the off. As a privateer you'll need to sort out enemy ships, and you do this by simply entering into real-time combat at sea. It couldn't be easier in that you use left and right arrow keys to steer your vessel, and as you draw alongside you trigger the weapons available to you.

After boarding an enemy ship you might have to take part in a duel with the captain and your performance in these fun one-on-one swordfights can greatly affect your reputation. Once a captain is defeated you can plunder its booty and even capture the vessel and make it part of your fleet.

Land ahoy!

On land the player's life is just as hectic. In town you can visit the tavern to recruit a crew, trade goods with a merchant, head over to the shipwright's for repairs and so on. You can also woo governors' daughters by gaining higher ranks, dancing with them, buying them jewellery and so on. This can gain you both insights into your enemies' affairs and special items such as map fragments. There's also land-based battling to be done, which involves taking control of your various units and issuing a range of order with a view to outflanking your enemy and capturing the odd city or two.

It's a fantastic experience, varied and challenging, and although we've only really described the basics, there's fathoms of strategic depth for those who want to live a full and interesting life on land and on the high seas. ●

PUZZLE RPG

Puzzle Quest: Challenge of the Warlords

Mac FORMAT On the disc

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

$20 (£10) It's a puzzle game dressed up in role-playing garments. Odd… but it works!

CONTACT INFO

Developer Infinite Interactive
www.infinite-interactive.com/puzzlequest
Vendor MacGameStore
www.macgamestore.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel processor, 1,024MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11/Mac OS X 10.5.2, 150MB hard disk space, ATi X1600/NVIDIA 7300 GT/Intel integrated graphics chip

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Wonderful presentation
- + A well-told story
- + Fun RPG elements
- + Great puzzling
- + Proper strategic battling
- − Less RPG than puzzle game

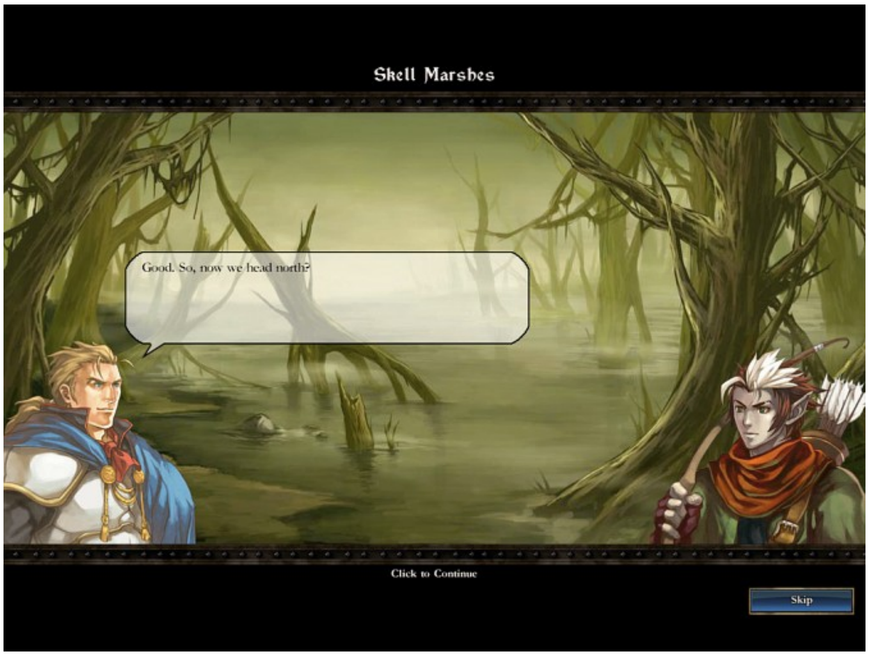
VERDICT

★★★★★

"A truly inspired combination of RPG elements and puzzle gaming, skillfully woven together to create something a bit different."

You could be forgiven for thinking we'd made a right balls-up in the printing of the screenshots for this review. Surely one of the shots belongs to a fairly standard match-the-tiles puzzler while the other is taken from a traditional role-playing game? But no. This is one game. And while the marriage of casual puzzling and role-playing seems an odd one, it works extremely well here.

Players expecting a full-sized, 20-hour-plus RPG should be warned: this is more a puzzle game with role-playing elements tagged on. But to dismiss it simply as a puzzler with a cosmetic fantasy-based skin would be remiss as the adventuring elements have been cleverly and thoroughly integrated with the basic puzzle gameplay mechanic.



Skell Marshes

Good. So, now we head north?

Monarchs, friends, allies, mysterious strangers… just some of the characters you can expect to meet along the way.

Plot and narrative

The plot, while perfectly serviceable and fairly well-written is nonetheless a comfortably familiar one. The main character, you, is a hero in waiting. After a brief training period in which you learn the basics of combat it's time to start battling the forces of evil that are emerging from the periphery of your peaceful habitat and are threatening to engulf the kingdom.

The unfolding narrative is told in an extremely polished fashion using cut-scenes whose artwork wouldn't look out of place in a full-blown RPG. In addition, the relationships you have with the various characters you meet are expertly fleshed out as the game progresses.

The role-playing segments of the game work something like this: your character, be he a knight, warrior, wizard or whatever, moves from location to location on a map viewed top down. If stopping at a major settlement, you can visit a shop to buy any number of weapons and provisions. More importantly, you can also obtain objectives. Simpler quests might include taking a message from the Queen to a dignitary residing in a nearby city. Or you might be asked to seek out a fellow adventurer who can help in the battle against the forces of evil. On your travels you'll obtain (either by reward or by shopping) various ability-enhancing objects such as armour, weapons, defensive items and so on.

But where does the puzzling come in to all this, we hear you wondering? Basically, it replaces what would normally be the combat system in any other RPG. So every time you're sent off to do battle with a Lich, skeleton or zombie, or if you suddenly and quite randomly encounter giant rats on your travels, the combat screen is entered and the puzzling begins.

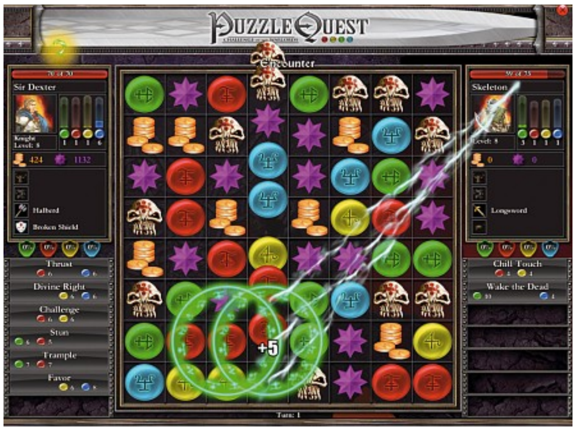
> "It leads to lengthy, strategically taxing encounters and makes battling an entertaining process"

The puzzle board

The puzzle board contains tiles of various types and colours. Basic coloured tiles represent mana. Match three or more of these and you accumulate mana, which you can later use to cast spells at your enemy. Spells come in various forms such as Trample, an offensive attack, and Stun, which gives you a second attack round. Regular, non-magical attacks, though, are achieved by lining up three or more skull tiles, at which point your enemy takes damage. This leads to a great deal of strategic play as you figure out how best to line up the skulls while not leaving any attacks open for your enemy to use against you. What's more, you also have to think about the weapons and equipment you need to buy before a battle because it has a very real and tangible effect on the amount of damage you can both take and inflict.

Odd though it is, this use of a puzzle board to decide battles is superb. It leads to lengthy, strategically taxing encounters and makes battling, which can be a dry exchange of stats in other RPGs, a thoroughly entertaining process, making *Puzzle Quest* a thoroughly recommended game. ●

Pull one over your enemies by beating them at puzzles rather than fighting.



ACTION RPG

Depths of Peril

Mac FORMAT On the disc

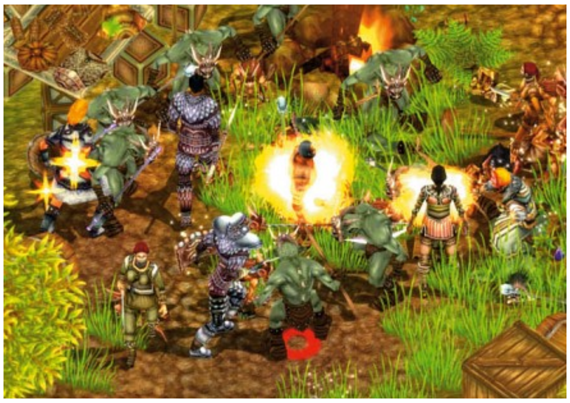
$20 (£10) A fun role-playing game that'll keep you going until Diablo 3 comes along

Judging this game on its looks alone you'd probably dismiss it as a poor man's *Diablo* and in a sense you'd be right. But despite its derivative structure and poor visuals, there's a charming game here with plenty of fun adventuring to be had and a few little innovations to boot.

There's no scene-setting. You just choose your character (Druid, Warrior, Knight or Wizard), name it, and dive straight in. The interface here is a very familiar set-up with slots across the bottom of the screen for quick use of weapons, attacks and items, and there's a levelling up bar just above it … it's a doddle.

The basic idea is to protect your territory from enemy threats, building your character and protecting the interests of your covenant while other key characters do the same. Whether you choose to seek diplomatic relations with these other covenants, or engage in combat with them is up to you.

There are two rather neat touches. First of all, each new adventure is randomly generated so no two games are the same, or at least not quite the same. While the quests vary slightly and the maps are redrawn, the general structure of the game world remains the similar. However, this is a persistent world and you can take a character you've levelled up in one game and take them into a whole new world, tweaked to match their abilities.


Protect the barbarian city, Jorvik, by completing quests and through good ol' fashioned fighting.

In addition, there are shared stashes where you can store items to be shared with any other characters you create. So if one character has no use for something, they can stick it in the shared stash and it'll sit there until one of the players or other characters needs it.

We urge you to try the demo because this is a fun, if somewhat ugly, game. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Soldak Entertainment
www.soldak.com
Vendor MacGameStore
www.macgamestore.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 or later, 128MB RAM ,1.5GHz processor, GeForce 2

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Simple to play
- ⊕ Random map generation
- ⊕ Shared stashes
- ⊕ Fast play
- ⊖ Crappy graphics
- ⊖ No scene setting

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Never judge a game by its cover. Depths of Peril looks like an orc's arse but there's a smashing game underneath."

STRATEGY

Darkwind: War on Wheels

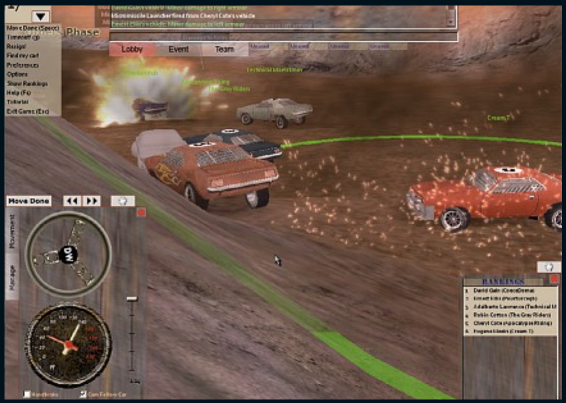
Mac FORMAT On the disc

£FREE It's a car racing game played by turns. But it's not as rubbish as it sounds

More mature readers may remember the name 'Steve Jackson' with some considerable fondness. He was an American games designer who created, among many other board and card games, a strategy game called *Car Wars*, which came in a plastic case and contained various cardboard chits and a paper map that together enabled players to create vehicles, equip them with weapons, then pit them against each other in a turn-based game of some considerable popularity. *Darkwind* is a videogame variation on the theme.

But first, a warning. What appears on the surface to be an arcade racer is, in fact, a pedestrian strategy game that happens to feature cars as its units rather than soldiers, infantrymen, orcs or elves.

That said, it's not as boring and misjudged as it sounds. Having taken control of a car and entered a racing venue, gameplay proceeds thus: using a system of directional arrow keys, the player sets the rotation of the car's steering wheel and the desired target speed then ends his or her turn, whereupon the car, and all the opponents' cars, move according to the applied settings. During the strategic planning phase of the proceedings players can also nominate which weapons and abilities to instigate in the ensuing turn. When the action is set in motion by means of a simple tap of the space bar, all the cars move, fire, skid, flip, explode, and so on according to how the various strategic interactions pan out.


Fight for your survival in a desolate world through vehicular combat. Basically, it's cars with guns.

Initially it seems dull as ditchwater but, while it's no work of genius, becomes weirdly compelling the more you play – especially given the fact that it's played online, features a chat facility, and is free to play. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Sam Redfern
www.dark-wind.com
Vendor Dark Wind
www.dark-wind.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X, 64MB graphics card supporting OpenGL, internet connection

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Interesting concept
- ⊕ Nicely implemented weapons
- ⊕ Online play
- ⊕ Chat facility
- ⊖ Graphics are crude
- ⊖ Slow pace

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"It's clunky and crude, but it's an interesting idea and there's fun to be had… and it's free."

On your disc

Three full programs, graphic design assets, royalty-free music, plus game and software demos

START HERE

Using the disc

The *MacFormat* disc comes with a superb interface menu that we recommend you use. Simply pop the disc into your drive, double-click the disc's icon on your Desktop and a folder will open up. The next step is to double-click on the MacFormat.osx icon in order to launch the interface. Please be aware that *MacFormat* now supports OS X only, and that some programs may require internet registration to become fully functional. Full details are available on the disc interface.

Mac Format
MacDisc
QUIT
Software
In the mag
Resources
Podcast

The *MacFormat* disc has an easy-to-use interface menu.

DISC PROBLEMS?

If you are having difficulties using the disc interface or content, please visit our reader support website at www.futurenet.co.uk/support, where you'll find solutions to many commonly reported problems. If you still have problems, email our reader support team at support@futurenet.co.uk or call 01225 442 244 and ask for coverdisc support.

We can only provide technical support for the installation of software. We cannot give in-depth help on the apps, your hardware or operating system. For software-related issues, please contact the product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone. We provide technical support for this disc for six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

MacDisc
Issue 200 | October 2008
3 FULL PROGRAMS
ConceptDraw MINDMAP 5
AppDelete 1.1
PLUS:

FEATURED SOFTWARE

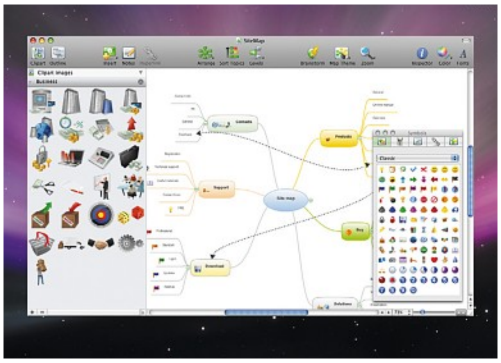
Exercise your mind, remove software, convert text to speech

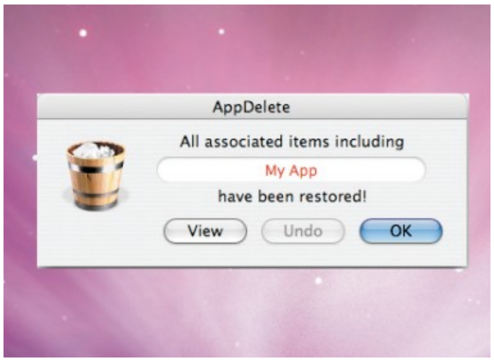
VERSION 5 AS SOLD FOR £139

ConceptDraw MINDMAP

Organise your thoughts with this full application

Dating back to the third century, mindmaps are basically diagrams representing words, tasks and other items that are linked and arranged around a central idea or key word. They're perfect when used to generate, visualise, structure and classify ideas as well as being a great aid in problem solving, decision-making and writing. So why not give this full product a try and rearrange your own grey matter so that it's more structured? You'll need OS X 10.4.1 or later to run it.





AppDelete

All associated items including

My App

have been restored!

AS SOLD FOR $5

AppDelete 1.1.1

Completely remove software safely from your Mac

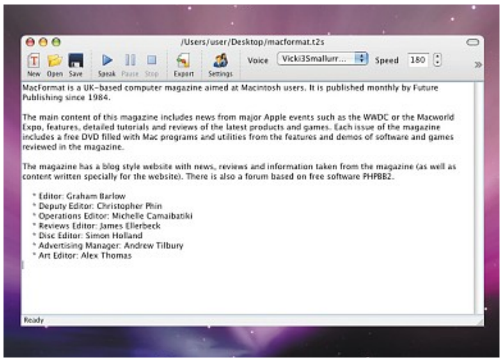
One feature found to be considerably lacking in OS X is a way of removing software cleanly without leaving any stray components. On occasions, as these files build up over time, they can cause your Mac and OS to eventually slow to a crawl. There's no need to fret as *AppDelete* is an ideal cure to this laboured, perennial paralysis of your machine. It enables you to choose an app for deletion and you'll find all associated files and folders to be purged from your hard disk. Requires OS X 10.3 or later.

AS SOLD FOR €89

TextSpeech Pro Basic 1.5

Make your Mac speak out your typed words

Suffering from eye fatigue is a regular occurrence if you're constantly reading small text for large periods. So why not give your retinas a break and exercise your cochlea instead. *TextSpeech* provides your Mac with the platform for it to read your books, documents, emails and more with a selection of natural human voices. You can use a text editor to convert typed text to speech and save the created documents and selected voice settings. Requires OS X 10.4 or later.



Voice: Vicki3Smallurr...
Speed: 180

MacFormat is a UK-based computer magazine aimed at Macintosh users. It is published monthly by Future Publishing since 1984.

The main content of this magazine includes news from major Apple events such as the WWDC or the Macworld Expo, features, detailed tutorials and reviews of the latest products and games. Each issue of the magazine includes a free DVD filled with Mac programs and utilities from the features and demos of software and games reviewed in the magazine.

The magazine has a blog style website with news, reviews and information taken from the magazine (as well as content written specially for the website). There is also a forum based on free software PHPBB2.

* Editor: Graham Barlow
* Deputy Editor: Christopher Phin
* Operations Editor: Michelle Camaibatiki
* Reviews Editor: James Ellerbeck
* Disc Editor: Simon Holland
* Advertising Manager: Andrew Tilbury
* Art Editor: Alex Thomas

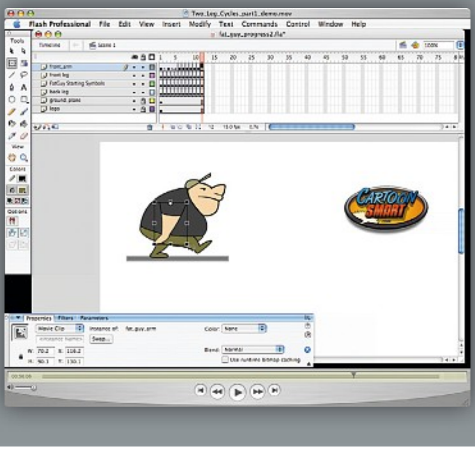
Ready

VIDEO TRAINING TUTORIALS

To celebrate *MacFormat's* double centenary we're providing you with a whopping six hours worth of tutorials this issue. So insert your *MacFormat* disc into your computer's drive and you'll have taken the first step towards learning a whole new software application.

We have all your *Flash*, *Dreamweaver* and *Blender* bases covered with topics on two-legged walk cycles, basic gaming, shape tweening, publishing tricks, drawing a head and more.

Our pick is the super-dynamic photo gallery demo where you'll be well on your way to creating a website that displays your image collection in an eye-catching fashion after the first hour. For the complete tutorial, set your browser's course to **www.cartoonsmart.com**.



ALSO ON THE DISC

Resources, audio podcasts and more!

RESOURCES

Designer assets

Overhaul your artwork

Liven up your projects with an array of content, including fonts, backgrounds, icons and logos from **www.bullseyes.org**. (Note, these files are for non-profit – non-commercial – use only).

GAME DEMO

War on Wheels

Turn-based 3D multiplayer

Set in the near future on a sparse continent, with a disastrous solar event having left the world devastated, you must refine your vehicular combat skills in order to scratch out a living.

40 new desig

SOFTWARE DEMO

QuarkXPress 8

Industry standard DTP contender

Offering a completely optimised user interface, support for drag and drop and a global file format, Quark is battling to regain the desktop publishing crown. Test drive it for 60 days.

SMARTassMusic
www.smartassmusic.com

ROYALTY-FREE

10 music tracks

Increase your music collection

While you're waiting for your favourite band to release their next album, why not fill your iPod with some new tunes by checking out royalty-free sources such as SMARTassMusic?

All your Apple needs
Mac FORMAT
This Week
MacFormat – This Week [Enhanced]

PODCAST

MacFormat This Week

Essential audio from the team

Once you've read the magazine, have a listen to our 30-minute broadcasts from 4 and 18 August. Be sure to subscribe on *iTunes* so that you don't miss out in the future.

LINKWORD LANGUAGES
RUSSIAN

AUDIO TUTORIAL

Learn Russian

Master a new language today!

Planning a long journey across Russia on the Trans-Siberian Express? Then you might find it helpful to broaden your Russian vocabulary beyond simply 'Vodka' and 'Ushanka'.

DISC CONTENTS

All the great Mac software on this issue's disc

IN THE MAG

Cover feature

Adium X 1.2.7
AppCleaner 1.2.1
AppFresh 0.7
AppZapper 1.8
Carbon Copy Cloner 3.1.1
ChocoFlop 0.87
coconutWiFi 2.0
Cyberduck 3.0.2
DockSpaces 1.1
Hide Folders 2008
iStat pro 4.7
MacLoc 1.1
NeoOffice 2.2.4
OnyX 1.9.6
OpenOffice.org 2.4
Perian 1.1
Pingus 0.7
Skim 1.1.12
SnapNDrag 2.4.4
SuperDuper 2.5
VLC Media Player 0.8.6i
You Control: Tunes 1.7

Reviews

DJ-1800 3.2b3
Internet Cleanup 5.0
Mellel 2.5
QuarkXPress 8.0
ScreenFlow 1.2
Stanza 1.0b11
Dictionary Editor 1.0.1

Shareware

Glims 1.0b6
PinPoint 3.0b17
QuickCopy 2.1.5r2
Speakapedia 1.0.1
What's Keeping Me? 1.3

Tutorials

Hardware Monitor 4.51
VirtualBox 1.6.4

Widgets

GoogleMiniWeb 0.1
Language Translator 1.2
Population Counter 3.0
RefurbMe 3.0

RESOURCES

MacFormat This Week: 4 August
MacFormat This Week: 11 August
CartoonSmart.com training
Graphic resources
Learn Russian
Royalty-free music
Image Tricks

Full software

AppDelete 1.1.1
ConceptDraw MINDMAP 5
TextSpeech Pro Basic 1.5

Games trials

Darkwind: War on Wheels
Depths of Peril 1.010
Puzzle Quest 1.0.2

RECOMMENDED

Houdini Apprentice 9.5.170
pzizz 2.7

TOP FREEWARE

Hide Folders 2008
iReadFast 1.1
JDiskReport 1.3.1
jIRCii 08.07.08
NetNewsWire 3.1.7b4
Pwnage Tool 2.0.1
SuperDocker 2.5.8
SyncTwoFolders 1.2.8
TimeMachineEditor 2.0.1
Transmission 1.32

READER OFFERS

Upgrade to ConceptDraw MINDMAP 6

Get the latest version of this unique business productivity tool for just £169 – a saving of £170 – at **www.conceptdraw.co.uk/purchase/upgrade.php.**

Upgrade to TextSpeech Pro Deluxe

Purchase the Deluxe edition of this package and you'll be entitled to a 10% discount simply by entering **MACFORMAT354654989** at checkout. This offer expires on 1 January 2009.

Upgrade to AppDelete 2

Buy the latest version of this OS-cleaning tool for a meagre $5 at **http://reggie.ashworth.googlepages.com/payments.**

Buy Speakapedia

As featured in our shareware reviews section, you can claim a $5 discount when buying this Wikipedia-searching tool by typing **MF200** at checkout.

3 full programs!

Plus widgets, shareware, games, video tutorials & more

MacFormat Disc

Issue 200 | October 2008

Made in the EU
MAC200 DISC

If you are having difficulties using the disc interface or content, please visit our support website at **www.futurenet.co.uk/support**. If you are still experiencing difficulties then please email our reader support team (**support@futurenet.co.uk**) or call **01225 442244** and ask to speak to coverdisc support.

3 FULL PROGRAMS

ConceptDraw MINDMAP 5
Plan your next project perfectly

AppDelete 1.1.1
Cleanly delete programs from your Mac

PLUS:
Latest game demos, TextSpeech Pro Basic 1.5, video training, and more!

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but – as with any new software – we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the *MacFormat* disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at **www.futurenet.co.uk/support/**. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (**support@futurenet.co.uk**) or phone **01225 442244** and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

Made in the EU
MAC200 DISC

© Future Publishing 2008
Not to be sold separately

MacDisc
3 FULL PROGRAMS ON YOUR DISC!
ConceptDraw MINDMAP 5
Plan your next project perfectly!
Amazing AppDelete
QuarkXPress 8
Start learning!

MISSING YOUR DISC?
If your disc is missing, email **support@futurenet.co.uk** or phone 01225 442244

MAKE SOMETHING

750 HI-RES IMAGES A MONTH **£149**

40,000 NEW IMAGES A WEEK

SHUTTERSTOCK.COM 001.646.419.4452

10% OFF WITH THIS CODE: MFT610

shutterstock®

Brighton
12-13 Brighton Place
The Lanes, Brighton.

Hove
255 Old Shoreham Rd
Hove.

Bournemouth
78 Old Christchurch Rd
Bournemouth.

Guildford
Coming soon

Chichester
51a South Street
Chichester.

solutions inc.

Free UK Mainland delivery

0870 389 8610
standard national call rates apply
www.**solutions-inc**.co.uk

Premium Reseller

iPhone
3G
compat

Invisible Shield
Tough clear protective film
iPhone 3G full body £15.99 inc. vat
iPhone 3G Screen only £11.97 inc. vat

Griffin Nu Form
iPhone 3G polycarbonate case
iPhone 3Gblack £14.99 inc. vat
iPhone 3Gwhite £14.99 inc. vat

iSkin Revo2
Premium silicone case in various colours
Revo2 for iPhone 3G £24.98 inc. vat

iPhone
3G
compat

Onyx Leather
Premiumleather iPhoen case
Onyx for iPhone/touch £16.99 inc. vat

iPhone
3G
compat

Griffin SmartTalk
Listen to your iPhone in stereo with your favourite headphones. This plug in mic for the iPhone provides the best of both worlds whether speaking on phone or listening to music.
£14.99 inc. vat

G-Tech G-DriveQ
FireWire 400/800, USB2, eSATA
500GbB £140.14 inc. vat
750GB £254.98 inc. vat
1TB £333.70 inc. vat

G-Tech G-RAID2
FireWire 400/800, USB2
500GB £212.68 inc. vat
1TB £304.33 inc. vat
2TB £512.89 inc. vat

We mean business

Solutions inc. is more than just an Apple Premium Reseller. We also have a dedicated team of business advisors backed by Apple accredited product professionals and qualified technicians. Discover more about our business support services including server deployment, iPhone integration & accredited training. Review recent case studies or register for one of our 'free to attend' seminars:

www.**solutions-inc.co.uk**/business

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

Extraordinary sonic ability, lavish build, stunning styling. One of the most impressive products we've seen in an age.

TrustedReviews.com EDITOR'S CHOICE

B&W has managed to produce an iPod speaker dock that raises the bar so high, I doubt that the competition can see it, let alone reach it.

Bowers & Wilkins Zeppelin **£399.00** inc. vat

You can see and audition the **Zeppelin** in all of our four retail stores. Alternatively get the **inside story**, tech spec, and **next day delivery** for on-line orders at: www.**solutions-inc**.co.uk

iPhone
3G
compat

iTrip FM auto for your car
Now with smart scan. Simply the best FM iPod radio transmitter solution available.
£34.98 inc. vat

Solar Power for your iPod/iPhone/digital camera
Now you can relax on holiday with your iPod, IPhone , digital camera. Adapters for iPod/iPhone, USB and others.
PowerMonkey Explorer £54.99 inc. vat

Best price policy
We regularly check the price of over 500 core products, against other leading mail-order catalogues, high street shops & on-line resellers to ensure we offer you the best deals.

Secure on-line transactions
Our on-line e-store features a secure check-out page. We never keep any credit or debit card details and we never pass customer details on.

Free UK Mainland delivery

Great availability, faster delivery
1,000 products available on-line. Free delivery to mainland UK addresses for all orders.

No shady deals
All our products are official UK models and versions sourced either direct from the manufacturer or from approved distributors and backed by a full UK warranty.

Newsletter
Sign-up on-line and receive emails on all the latest products, in store events and promotions.

Well established
Solutions inc. is one of the most established and respected Apple UK partners with 15 years experience.